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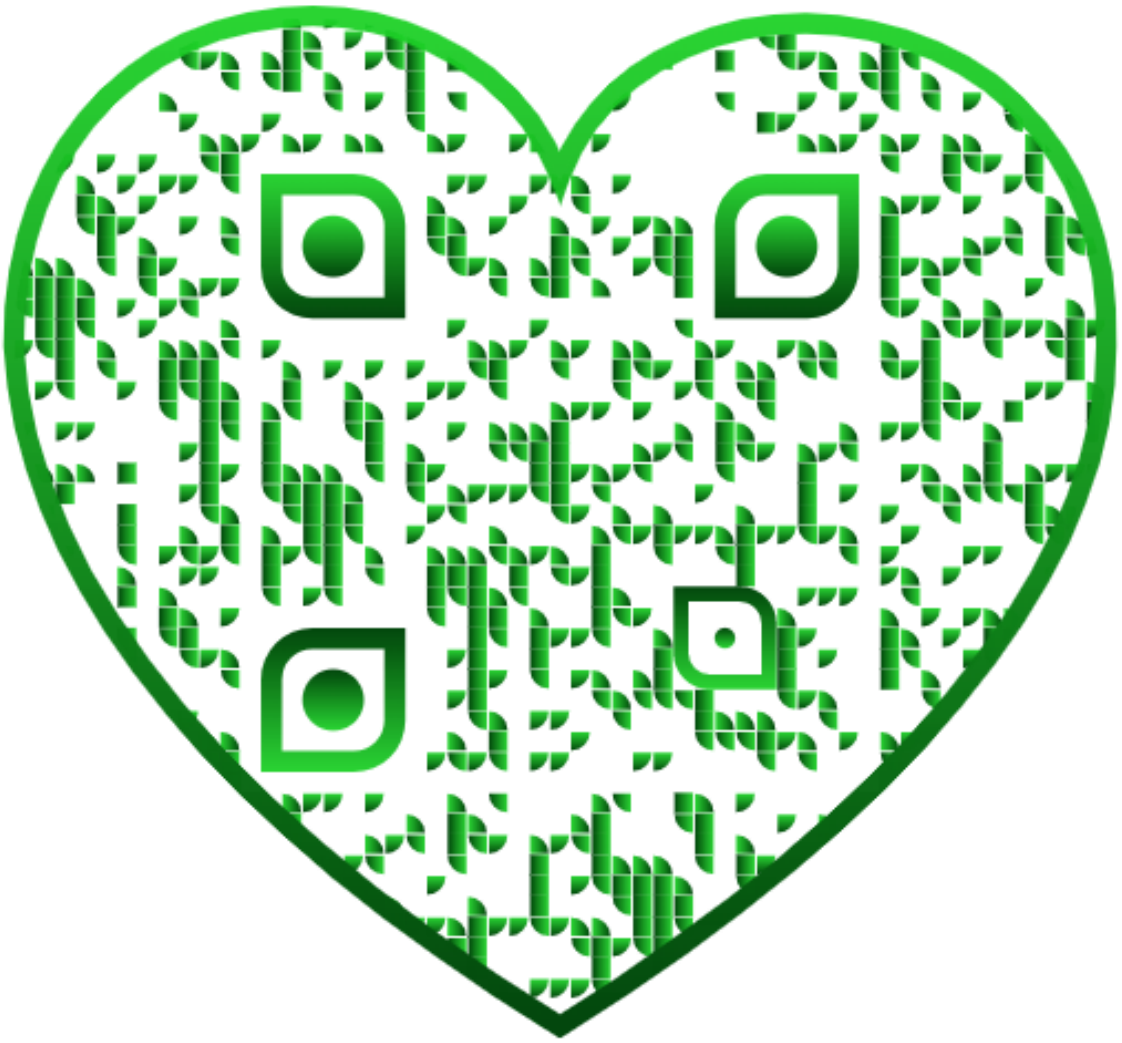

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HELLO, READERS. Imagine rock without its pioneers? Imagine how bland it would be if some bands weren't out there taking risks? It would be well bad-rubbish-poo. Yes, rock needs bands brave enough to experiment. That's why this issue's dedicated to the ones who go where other bands fear to tread. Speaking of which… it's my distinct pleasure to welcome rock's greatest modern-day musical explorers, Enter Shikari, back onto our cover. Don't assume our space-themed shoot is all Photoshop, either. We actually pooled together some of our offshore bank accounts to send the lads into the stars. Couldn't afford the return trip, mind. Anyway, elsewhere in the mag, you can read all about why the latest K! Tour has been the best yet. AND IT'S NOT EVEN OVER! See you all at the London show, yeah? Enjoy the issue.

James
Editor

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Ever wondered what it's like to get hit by a rap legend with a piece of furniture? Let Jacoby Shaddix tell you…

THIS ISSUE WAS CREATED WITH HELP FROM...

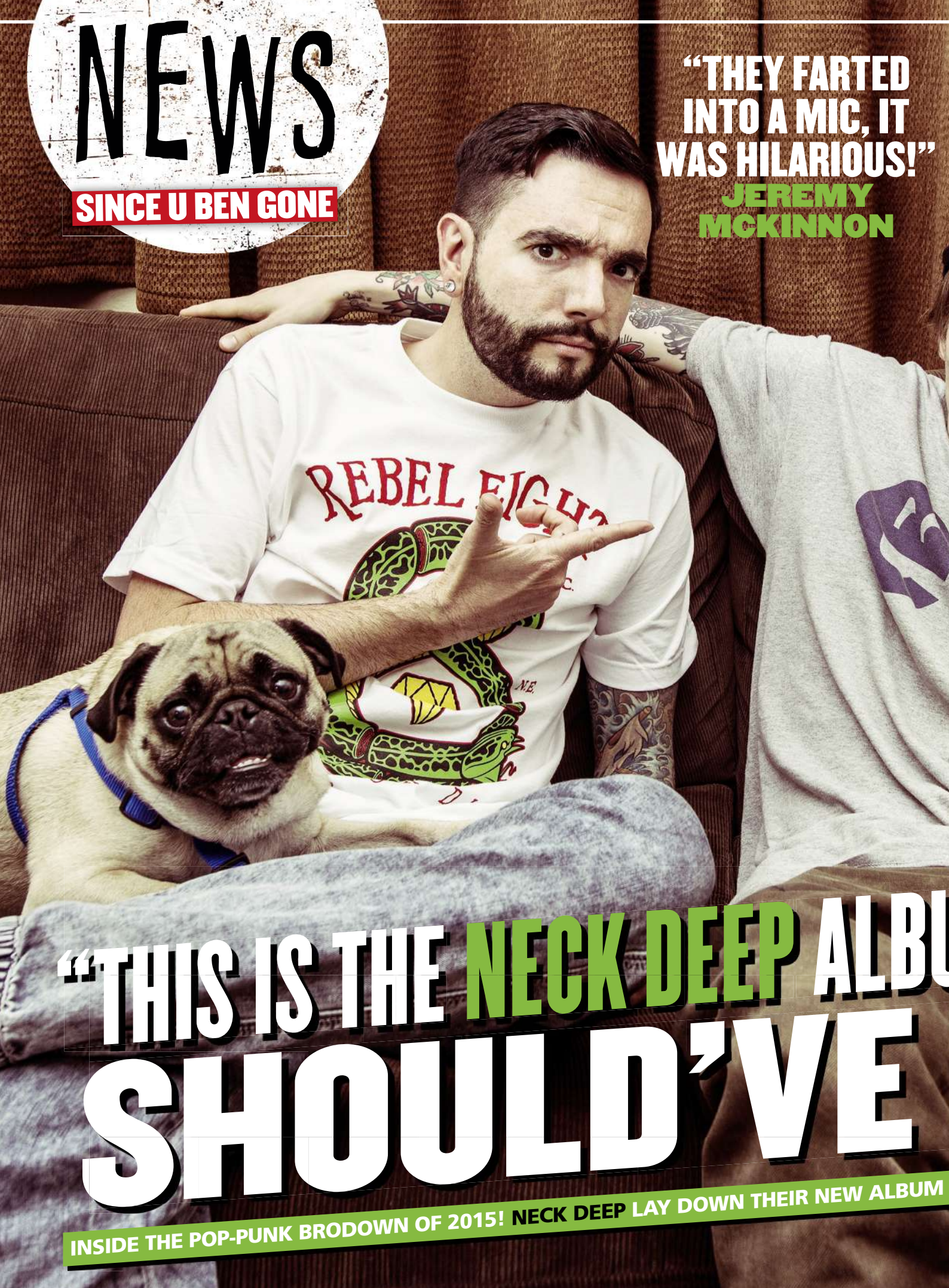
Mastodon's Grammy costumes, which turned heads almost as much as when we sent a 'beaten-up' Hawk Eyes' Paul onto the streets after his photo shoot. Contributing Editor Katie P's 21st birthday bash and hangovers induced by nights out at Primordial and Winterfylleth, As Lions' debut show (that's Austin Dickinson wearing K! scribe Amit's hair there… obviously) and so many K! Tour shows that we've forgotten what life outside of Don Broco's tour bus looks like. What year is it? Who's the president?

COVER PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES **RETOUCHING:** STEVE HORSFALL

NEWS

SINCE U BEN GONE

"THEY FARTED INTO A MIC, IT WAS HILARIOUS!"
JEREMY MCKINNON



"THIS IS THE NECK DEEP ALBU SHOULD'VE

INSIDE THE POP-PUNK BRODOWN OF 2015! NECK DEEP LAY DOWN THEIR NEW ALBUM

No-one knew Ben was secretly listening to Nicki Minaj

Fil was shocked at the pug's mad drum skills

Jez swore he never got the memo about grey hats

UM OUR DEBUT BEEN!"

WITH A DAY TO REMEMBER'S JEREMY MCKINNON...

"We didn't choose the pug life, the pug life chose us"

I thought you loved Neck Deep's 4K-rated debut album, Wishful Thinking? Well, hold tight, because frontman Ben Barlow has exclusively told K! that – with the addition of A Day To Remember frontman Jeremy McKinnon on production duty – their next album is set to be waaay bigger. The band swapped the ice and snow of Wrexham for some Florida sunshine and holed themselves up in Jeremy's Orlando recording studio to lay down their next masterpiece. With the as-yet-untitled album due this summer, we sat down with the pop-punk bros...

HI, BEN! HI, JEREMY! HOW DID YOU GUYS END UP WORKING TOGETHER ON THIS RECORD?

JEREMY: "I had been following Neck Deep all last year, because I'd just heard so much about them. I wanted to work with them so bad!"

BEN: "We wanted to step out of our comfort zone and branch out. A Day To Remember are a big influence on Lloyd [Roberts, guitar] and Fil [Thorpe-Evans, bass]. Fil initially met with Jeremy and one of the main reasons we went with him is he was so stoked on the whole thing. Jeremy was like, 'You *have* to let me work on this.' And that was a good enough reason for us to go with him, like, 'If he has that much faith in it then yeah, we should.' He's come good!"

WHAT HAS IT BEEN LIKE WORKING WITH JEREMY, THEN?

BEN: "It's cool to have input from someone who has been there and done that. If anyone knows the keys to success, it would be A Day To Remember. Jeremy is a super-talented writer, I didn't realise going into this just how talented he is. Some of his ideas end up being our favourite bits in the song. Everyone involved just inherently gets what Neck Deep is about and the sound we're going for. We've got this dude who knows good pop-punk working with us and I'd like to think we know good pop-punk, too, so it's definitely a good combination!"

JEREMY, DID YOU ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE, TOO?

JEREMY: "It was one of the most fun and inspired albums I've ever been a part of. We all worked insanely hard to finish the album, though, and ended up working 196 hours in the last two weeks!"

YIKES! SOUNDS HECTIC, DID YOU GET ANY TIME TO EXPLORE FLORIDA TOGETHER?

JEREMY: "The guys had their tour booked for pretty much the day after the recording ended, so we worked nonstop a lot of the time. They did, however, discover Whole Foods while here in Florida and demanded that we go there every day (*laughs*)!"

BEN: "Wherever we went, he got noticed. We got a burrito from Chipotle and the girl behind the counter recognised him and gave us a load of half-price and free Chipotle vouchers. The perks of hanging around with Jeremy was pretty much free food! That sorted us out!"

WERE THERE MUSICAL PERKS, TOO? HOW'S THE NEW MATERIAL SOUNDING?

BEN: "To me, it's the album [2014 debut] Wishful Thinking should've been. I've said a lot of the things on this album that I wanted to say on that record. As far as the music goes, it sounds like Neck Deep, but more polished and rounded. There's a definite blink-182 influence in there and there are riffs on there that I think, 'Oh wow, this could be a Starting Line riff.' It's a straight-up pop-punk album, just done really well."

WERE THERE ANY MAGIC, SPONTANEOUS MOMENTS THAT YOU CAUGHT ON RECORD?

JEREMY: "When we were doing the intro for the first song, Fil ran up and farted into a mic. We ended up leaving it at the end of the song because it wasn't planned and we thought it was hilarious, so it stayed!"

RIIIGHT... SO, BEN, DID JEREMY GIVE YOU ANY SONGWRITING TIPS?

BEN: "Yeah. I was stressing out with lyrics at one point, freaking out 'cause there was a couple of days where I just wasn't feeling it. He was like, 'Whatever, dude, I have those days, too, I know how it is.' And that helped – later on that night, I wrote a fucking banger of a song!"

AND ARE THERE GUESTS ON THE ALBUM, THEN?

JEREMY: "Well, I actually sang on one song. It was one of my favourite parts on the record, and they said they'd take the song out if I didn't do it (*laughs*)!"

NECK DEEP'S AS-YET-UNTITLED ALBUM IS DUE THIS SUMMER VIA HOPELESS

WIN!

ALL SIGNS POINT TO SPRINGFIELD!

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Ay caramba! While we were talking to ADTR's Jez, he fixed us up with five incredible Simpsons-style tees for you to win! Head to Winit.kerrang.com to be in with a chance...

WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

THE K! QUIZ

AUSTIN DICKINSON, AS LIONS

Will the frontman's guesses be on the right lions...

1 HOW MANY STUDIO ALBUMS HAVE THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN RELEASED?
AUSTIN: "Five? I knew Option Paralysis was their fourth and there was one after!" ✓

2 REED RICHARDS IS THE ALTER EGO OF WHICH MARVEL COMIC BOOK CHARACTER?
AUSTIN: "Reed Richards? Damn… is it Quicksilver? Oh, it's Mr Fantastic?" ✗

3 IN WHAT COUNTRY WOULD YOU FIND THE CITY OF VLADIVOSTOK?
AUSTIN: "I'm going to say Ukraine."
K!: "We'd be lion if we said it wasn't Russia."
AUSTIN: "Ah! I thought it sounded *too* Russian so went another way!" ✗

4 TIGER SNAKES ARE AN INDIGENOUS SPECIES IN WHICH COUNTRY?
AUSTIN: "I think it might be Australia? I love snakes but I wouldn't go near one! They could kill me!" ✓

5 IN WHAT YEAR WAS THE FILM VERSION OF FIGHT CLUB RELEASED?
AUSTIN: "'98? It's '99? Shit, I'm a big David Fincher fan and I blew that." ✗

6 THE WOLF IS LOOSE OPENS WHICH OF MASTODON'S ALBUM?
AUSTIN: "That is Blood Mountain. For a moment there I was thinking Leviathan, but I'm glad I didn't listen to that voice!" ✓

7 HOW MANY HOURS ARE THERE IN AUGUST?
AUSTIN: "So, that's 31 times 24… then… er, 748?"
K!: "744! So close!" ✗

8 IN WHAT U.S. CITY WOULD YOU FIND THE SEAHAWKS FOOTBALL TEAM?
AUSTIN: "Shit, I hate sport. Boston? No, I don't really watch games in America!" ✗

9 WHAT SAUCE WOULD YOU FIND USED IN EGGS BENEDICT?
AUSTIN: "Hollandaise. I'm a big fan, it definitely kicks ass at breakfast time." ✓

10 WHICH IS CLOSER TO THE EARTH – VENUS OR NEPTUNE?
AUSTIN: "It's Venus isn't it? I've got this – I'm a big Carl Sagan fan." ✓

5 OUT OF 10

"I can live with it. I'm bummed I got the Fight Club one wrong, and I was very close if you want to give me a half point?" says Austin. Nice try, but we're not having it, sir! Better luck next time.

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

CLASH OF THE TTK

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ROCK HEAVYWEIGHTS COLLIDE?! K! GETS THE INSIDE STORY OF TEENAGE TIME KILLER…

IF SOMEONE were to ask if you fancied listening to a record featuring Dave Grohl, Corey Taylor, Randy Blythe, Matt Skiba, Nick Oliveri, Jello Biafra, Neil Fallon and a couple dozen other rock luminaries, you would think they were taking the piss. In the dying moments of 2014, however, it became clear that the supergroup we'd heard rumblings about was set to be exactly that. But how did Teenage Time Killer come to be? Who pulled off the truly mammoth task of roping this most absurd of line-ups together? And how did it all go down in the studio? The story starts with Corrosion Of Conformity drummer Reed Mullin.

"I've known Dave Grohl since he was 14, through the hardcore scene in Washington, D.C., where Corrosion Of Conformity would regularly play, I started a little indie label and put out a record by his first band, Dain Bramage, and then over the years I've watched him become this megastar, and been so happy for him," says Reed, explaining how he ended up recording at Dave Grohl's 606 Studio – and casually snared the rock god to be on his TTK project.

But the band wasn't always destined to be the supergroup behemoth it is today – and Reed would be the first to admit that parts of the project fell into place by complete fluke.

"Originally, the plan was to get [former Dead Kennedys frontman] Jello Biafra to come sing on all the tracks. Then, I was at the airport one day, walking to my gate, and I saw this tall dude with a Corrosion Of Conformity T-shirt on, and I say, 'Hey, man, nice shirt!' because I'm really dorky! And it turned out to be Randy Blythe from Lamb Of God (*laughs*)!"

"I told him about what I'd been doing and he was like, 'I want to be on it, too!' So, it became 12 songs with Jello and Randy, and then we had the idea of getting all our buddies to be on it. Dave straight away wanted to be involved – so he ended up playing bass on 12 of the songs!"

From there on in, Reed was on a roll. "I started calling people and I heard 'I'd be honoured' a lot! In reality, I was the one who was honoured! We reached out to Corey Taylor and he was really into it. He went into the studio and nailed his song in one or two takes – and it sounds amazing!"

Corey's shoulder was aching from carrying his excitement for TTK

TITANS!

With a truly all-star cast like Teenage Time Killers – and 22 tracks to choose from – it's no surprise that the band's mastermind struggles to pick a favourite song.

"There are so many tracks to choose from! Big Money with Lee Ving [Fear], Corey's Ego Bomb, Randy's song, Hung Out To Dry, and Crowned By The Light Of The Sun with Neil Fallon [Clutch] – they're all amongst my favourites! Oh, and the Jello song, Ode To Sean Hannity – the lyrics for that are actually a poem by John Cleese!"

It seems like there's no end to the surprises on their aptly titled debut, Teenage Time Killer's Greatest Hits Vol. 1. The only problem, it would seem, has been getting everyone in the same place at the same time…

"We got *almost* everyone together for a photoshoot recently! Everyone's busy, so it will make touring tough, but we're kicking around the idea of doing a few shows in the States, and maybe one in London – so we will play the TTK songs by whoever is present on the night, maybe with a couple of songs by their band, too!"

Fingers crossed for the likes of Dave Grohl, Corey Taylor and Randy Blythe then when the band make their UK debut, then!

TEENAGE TIME KILLER'S GREATEST HITS VOL. 1 IS DUE IN SPRING VIA RISE

"WE WANT TO PLAY A SHOW IN LONDON!"

Teenage Time Killer mastermind: Reed Mullin

From left: Corrosion Of Conformity's Mike Dean, Reed Mullin and Lamb Of God's Randy Blythe

Life of AGONY

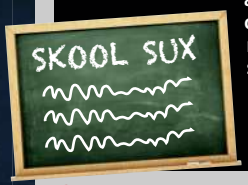
You send in your dilemmas, *the stars* dish out advice

This week, Sharon den Adel, Within Temptation

Dear Sharon,

My mum's started teaching at my school and everyone is rinsing me for it. What should I do? Tell my mum to leave?
Hannah, Lincoln

Sharon says: "My friend's mum taught biology at her school and because she did all the gender and sex classes, it made her really popular! You should definitely talk to your mum. Talk about the effect it has and how to lessen that."



Dear Sharon,

I want to start staying at my boyfriend's house but my parents won't let me. I'm 16 which I think is old enough. How can I convince them to let me stay? I'm not a child.
Sammi, Bedfordshire

Sharon says: "Get to know the boyfriend a little better so your dad can put the baseball bat away! That will put their mind at ease. Then, when they trust you both and see you together, they won't mind where you go. This probably all comes from not knowing the boy."

Dear Sharon,

I've always been really nervous talking to people. I can't look them in the eye and I break out in sweats. What can I do to calm down a little bit? It's stopping me from talking in big groups.
Al, Newport

Sharon says: "Get a parent or friend to help you. If you sit down and have conversations together, you can do role playing. Then you can get feedback on how to improve. Maybe try in front of a mirror, too!"

"Get your dad to put the baseball bat away!"

COMING SOON!
- Maria Brink!
- Nergal!
- Nikki Sixx!

Send in your dilemmas to Feedback@kerrang.com!

WORDS: HANNAH EWENS

NEWS

DAMAGE INK

YOUR FAVOURITE BANDS ON THEIR FAVOURITE TATTOOS!

CHRIS JERICHO, FOZZY

WHAT: Winged skull
WHERE: Upper arm
CHRIS SAYS: "It's a more detailed version of the cover of [2012's] Sin And Bones. It was my second tattoo after the Fozzy 'F' on my hand, but it was really a monumental album for us. I really wanted to have it done and it was a case of finding the right guy. I met this genius from Atlanta named Flaco, who came up with all the intricacies, and since I've had it done I've met probably a dozen fans who have the same piece – but it never looks as good!"

WHAT: Rolling Stones lips and Paul Stanley Loch Ness Monster
WHERE: Forearm
CHRIS SAYS: "I love the Stones, I love Kiss, and I love the Loch Ness Monster, so combining them in this piece was really special to me. The sleeve started with a Helloween pumpkin that [Avenged Sevenfold frontman] M. Shadows' tattooist did for both of us backstage at The Roxy, but then I had this random pumpkin just floating there, so I had the other elements added"

WHAT: Iron Maiden's Eddie
WHERE: Forearm
CHRIS SAYS: "This is Powerslave Eddie, and I wouldn't have had any other one! It's my favourite record and my favourite Eddie from the day it came out. That's *my* Eddie. There were times I almost wanted to see the cover of new Maiden albums more than I wanted to hear the music! Sometimes they're great, sometimes cheesy, but they matter. I'll always love my Eddie!"

COMING UP!

- Of Mice & Men!
- The Bronx!
- Halestorm!

WHO DO YOU WANT TO SEE FEATURED? Let us know! Feedback@kerrang.com

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

BLINK ONE EIGHT NEW?!

WERE TOM DELONGE'S UPCOMING SONGS ORIGINALLY DESTINED FOR BLINK-182? K! INVESTIGATES…

MARCH 1 – that's the day that Tom DeLonge has promised to unleash new music. But we're not talking about Angels & Airwaves songs here. Instead, with every day that goes by, it seems increasingly likely that the songs we're set to hear will be blink-182 demos that have fallen victim to the band's recent meltdown, which has seen blink rehearsing without the guitarist.

"I have a lot of music I was working hard on," Tom wrote in a post on his Facebook page. "Things happen, so I guess we have a change of plans. Either way, I think you guys should hear it," he concluded, before adding the hashtag #SongsWithoutAHome.

The post follows two short video clips, one of a skull and one of a planet, but both featuring what sounds to us like new blink-182 material.

The first clip Tom released sounds like it would have been at home on blink's 2003 self-titled record. '*You attached right to my soul and walked across the sky*', go the lyrics. And, while the second snippet features no vocals, the guitar work strongly resembles blink's early sound. Interesting, eh?

Fingers crossed there'll be even more lost music to come March 1 – we'll just have to wait and see…

"Hmm, idea for a band name… blink-183?"

SEE KERRANG.COM ON MARCH 1 FOR MORE

"FOOS IN THE WEEK, LIEUTENANT ON THE WEEKEND!"

FOO FIGHTERS' BASSIST NATE MENDEL INTRODUCES HIS NEW BAND, LIEUTENANT. ATTEEEEEENNNTION!

FOO FIGHTERS bassist Nate Mendel is following in the footsteps of bandmates Taylor Hawkins and Chris Shiflett as he temporarily steps out of the Dave Grohl-shaped shadow to take centre stage with new band Lieutenant. Specialising in offbeat but instantly catchy alt.rock, the songs comprising his debut solo album, If I Kill This Thing We're All Going To Eat For A Week, are more than two years in the making.

"I guess it was my turn to throw my hat in the ring!" Nate laughs. "I started learning guitar and ended up with these ideas that were not fitting into Foo Fighters that had to go somewhere. It came down to having to say to myself, 'Alright, motherfucker! You're just going to have to learn how to sing!'"

Picking his favourite 13 ideas from his demos, he headed into the studio with producer Toshi Kasai (Melvins, Helmet) and drummer Joe Plummer (Modest Mouse).

"I was playing guitar and singing on a record for the first time, and Foo Fighters started working on Sonic Highways sooner than I thought, so there was a three-month period when I was doing Foo Fighters five days a week and then on the weekends I was going back into the studio to work on Lieutenant!" he laughs, wryly.

What a trooper! It's a good job that he soldiered on… sorry.

IF I KILL THIS THING WE'RE ALL GOING TO EAT FOR A WEEK IS OUT ON MARCH 2 VIA DINE ALONE RECORDS

"My camo shirt's in the wash, sir!"

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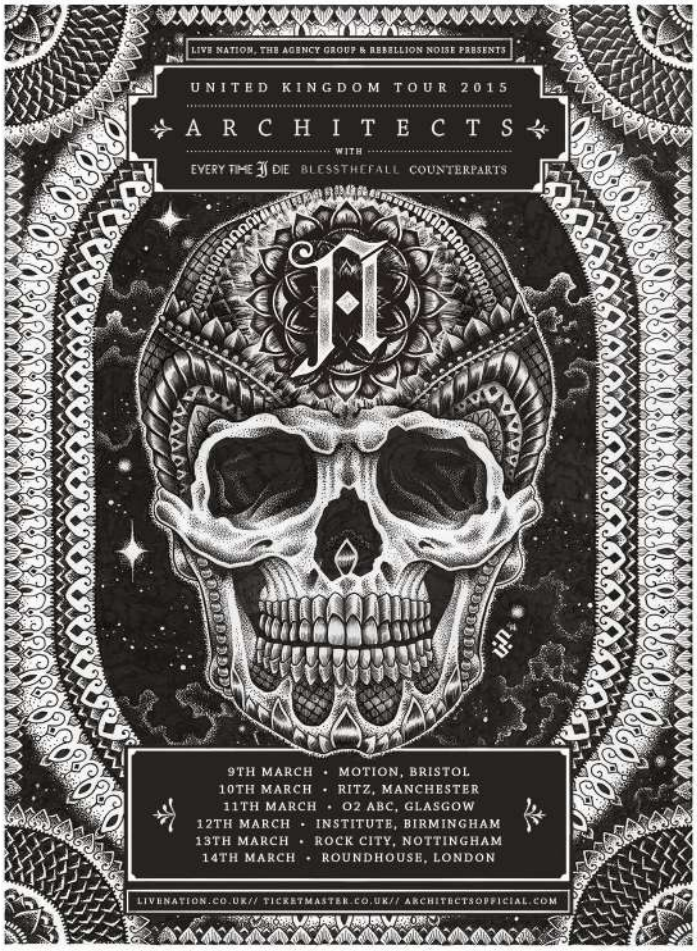

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ENCORE STAGE

MARILYN MANSON

BLACK VEIL BRIDES

TESTAMENT
BLACK STAR RIDERS
ACE FREHLEY

3RD STAGE

ANDREW W.K.

BODYCOUNT - EVERY TIME I DIE
CROWN THE EMPIRE - NORTHLANE
STRAY FROM THE PATH - EVIL SCARECROW
HANDS LIKE HOUSES

4TH STAGE

CREEPER

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

KISS

MÖTLEY CRÜE

SLASH

BILLY IDOL
TREMONTI

ENTER SHIKARI

lamb of god

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FRESH BLOOD

ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS BY JENNYFER J. WALKER

SEAWAY

MEET THE CANADIAN POP-PUNKS DREAMIN' OF THE BIG TIME

WELL, THIS YOUNG MAN SEEMS TO HAVE AN AWFUL LOT ON HIS MIND...

He certainly does. This particular brainache belongs to Ryan Locke of Ontario pop-punks Seaway, whose appropriately titled All In My Head EP is causing quite a stir at the moment in their native Canada. Why not head over to Kerrang.com and cop a download of Your Best Friend to see what all the fuss is about? Who knows, it might just teach you a thing or two about life in their homeland. "Things are definitely a lot different culturally where we're from to America and particularly the UK," admits Ryan. "Our last tour over here, we pretty much were digging our van out of four feet of snow each night! You gotta be dedicated to be a touring band in Canada!"

SOUNDS LIKE SOME BONKERS REMAKE OF FROZEN BUT WITH MORE RIFFS...

Well, quite. Fortunately, this lot have known each other for long enough that even a month in a snowdrift made of itching powder couldn't cause a row between them. "Me and our drummer Ken and our guitarist Andrew have known each other

"WE DON'T TAKE OURSELVES TOO SERIOUSLY!"

since we were five or six years old," notes Ryan. "Then we met the other two in high school. People ask me how we cope for six weeks stuck in a freezing van together, but I've known all of the guys for at least 10 years!"

SO, BASED ON CULTURAL STEREOTYPES, THEY LOVE NICKELBACK AND ICE HOCKEY, RIGHT?

"Well, we do watch a lot of hockey!" laughs Ryan. "We're all pretty big Toronto Maple Leafs fans. In fact, one time we were driving overnight so we could watch Canada play hockey in the Olympics and this kid was like, 'Hey, you guys can watch the game at my bar if you want!' Anyway, we got to this place and it turned out to be where blink-182 shot the video for Man Overboard! Suffice to say, we had a wicked night!" Sounds rad, although this story doesn't contain nearly enough Chad Kroeger for our liking...

THIS IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT THERE ARE A BILLION POP-PUNK BANDS OUT THERE AT THE MOMENT. WHAT SETS THIS LOT APART?

That's a very good question you got there! "Well, we write fun, happy songs. We really try to not take ourselves too seriously," offers Ryan. "To be honest, I think the pop-punk scene has taken a bit of an emo turn lately, but my goal with this band has always been to keep things light and poppy and fun. The whole thing should just be a laugh, y'know? Don't take life too seriously." We couldn't agree more, Ry. Now, someone pass us a snow shovel.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

FOR FANS OF: Neck Deep, ROAM.
HEAR: The blinding Your Best Friend.
CHECK OUT: Mad park antics on the Your Best Friend vid on YouTube.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/SeawayOakville
DON'T MISS: Seaway and more killer new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio, and Kerrang! TV's #freshbloodfridays on Sky 368, Virgin 342 and Freesat 542.

HEAR THEM NOW ON KERRANG.COM

(*From left*): Ken Taylor (drums), Adam Shoji (bass), Ryan Locke (vocals), Andrew Eichinger (guitar) and Patrick Carleton (guitar/vocals)

WORDS: TOM DOYLE PHOTO: IAN COLLINS REPRO: JOSIAH MOORE

hoobastank

P.O.D

ATFF
ALIEN ANT FARM

MAY 2015

THU 07 LONDON KOKO
FRI 08 WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL
SAT 09 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
SUN 10 PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY
TUE 12 READING SUB 89
WED 13 WREXHAM WILLIAM ASTON HALL
THU 14 BRISTOL MOTION
FRI 15 CARDIFF Y PLAS
SAT 16 MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2
SUN 17 SOUTHAMPTON ENGINE ROOMS

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04 GLASGOW O2 ACADEMY
05 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
06 NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY
07 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
09 LONDON KOKO
10 LONDON KOKO
12 MANCHESTER ACADEMY
13 BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY
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tweets of

@AndrewWK
Andrew W.K.
"When you eat the unpopped popcorn kernels from the bottom of the bag… YOU'RE PARTYING!"

JUST THE TICKET…

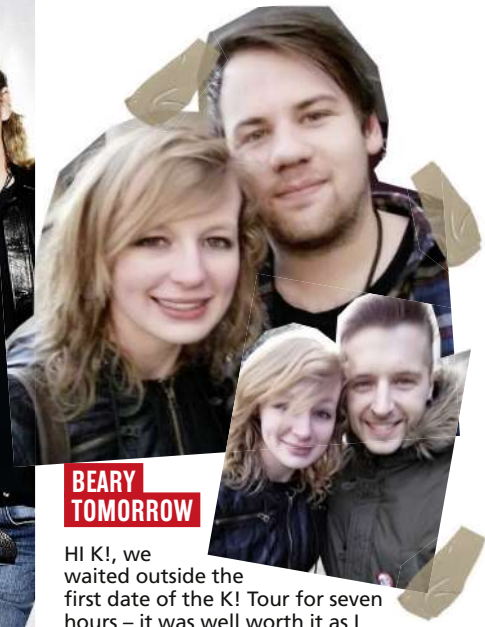
STAR LETTER

DEAR KERRANG!, I wanted to say how much I agree with the piece on ticket touting. I'm fed up of getting up early to grab tickets to gigs only to find out that the tickets have sold out immediately and are already listed on ticket resale sites!

It means I have to pay over the odds for the gigs I really want to go to and I can't afford other shows that I'd like to see. It's great that bands as big as Iron Maiden are taking a stand against it – hopefully the MPs will listen and we can put an end to touting once and for all!

MARCUS, VIA EMAIL

Thank you for your letter, Marcus! Touts seem to be ruining shows for everyone right now. Ultimately, the music scene would be much stronger if you could afford to go to 10 gigs with £15 tickets instead of one gig with £150 tickets! This is our favourite letter of the week… without a tout.



BEARY TOMORROW

HI K!, we waited outside the first date of the K! Tour for seven hours – it was well worth it as I managed to nab a photo with Beartooth's Caleb Shomo and one with Bury Tomorrow's Dani Winter-Bates as we kept seeing them walk past and finally picked up the courage to call them over for a photo! The show was an amazing experience and I cant wait for next year's tour!

SARAH-MARIE, VIA EMAIL

Great photos, Sarah-Marie! We're glad you managed to get a bear hug off Caleb to keep you warm and a bury nice pic with Dani, too. We salute your seven-hour dedication and we're glad you enjoyed it! Will you be wa-Tay-ing in line for photos next year? Sorry.

PANDORA by Ray Zell — Rayzell.com

the week

Because rockstars are obsessed with Twitter, too...

@markhoppus
Mark Hoppus, blink-182
"You will remember cheese. Remember cheese for centuries!"

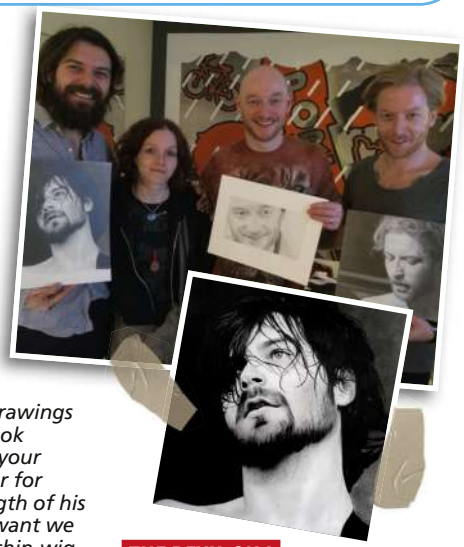
@petewentz
Pete Wentz, Fall Out Boy
"Woo! Congrats to our buddies in @Paramore on the Grammy win!"

BIFFY CRAYON

HI KERRANG!, here are my pics of Biffy Clyro. I was able to give the drawings to the lads at a show! Biffy have shown me nothing but absolute kindness, and I can't even say how much I respect them. They are true angels, despite what some of Simon's lyrics might say!

KATHRYN, VIA EMAIL

Hey, Kathryn, amazing drawings – no wonder the band look so chuffed with them in your picture! Simon's a bugger for always changing the length of his hair and beard... if you want we can draw the rest of his chin-wig on? We could get Ray Zell to do it – look at the ones he drew in Pandora this week. Majestic!



WHAT'S MY AGE (IN DOG YEARS) AGAIN?

HI KERRANG!, my dog, Jack, and I are both absolutely devastated about the blink-182 news. Why can't they just work it out?! I've had to take Jack for extra walks this week to cheer him up!"

KATIE, VIA EMAIL

Katie, we're still bummed, too! At least he can go mad for Cheshire Cat – or is he more a Take Off Your Pants And Jack-et kinda guy?

THE DEVIL ON I

HEY K!, after seeing Slipknot's show in Dublin, I decided to get their logo tattooed on my back! I'm a proud little maggot – rock on, guys!

BECKY, WEXFORD

Becky, we can't see a tattoo on you, but that person behind you seems to have a Slipknot tatt. Oh, wait. That's one of those mirror things, isn't it? We've never owned one of those, but then if you've ever seen our hair you probably already know that...

WIN! TICKETS TO SLAM DUNK 2015!

If you're like us, you're probably pretty bored of grey skies and big coats – heck, even playing pop-punk in the office won't convince us that the sun was ever even a thing. But look! Slam Dunk Festival is closing in and we've got a pair of tickets to give away! If you want to watch You Me At Six, Taking Back Sunday and loads more in May (hopefully in the blazing sun), just head to Winit.kerrang.com to be in with a chance!

THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST SONGS IN ROCK THIS WEEK? LET'S CONSULT THE OFFICIAL CHART...

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	8	1	MALLORY KNOX	When Are We Waking Up?	SONY
2	4	2	ENTER SHIKARI	Anaesthetist	ENTER SHIKARI
3	7	2	FALL OUT BOY	American Beauty/American Psycho	ISLAND
4	4	1	LOWER THAN ATLANTIS	Criminal	SONY
5	7	5	PAPA ROACH	Face Everything And Rise	ELEVEN SEVEN
6	3	6	MARILYN MANSON	Deep Six	COOKING VINYL
7	13	1	BRING ME THE HORIZON	Drown	SONY
8	3	8	TWIN ATLANTIC	Oceans	RED BULL
9	10	5	DON BROCO	Money Power Fame	SONY
10	2	10	KID ROCK	First Kiss	WARNER BROS.
11	15	1	ROYAL BLOOD	Ten Tonne Skeleton	WARNER BROS.
12	3	9	SLAVES	The Hunter	RED BULL
13	9	4	MARMOZETS	Move Shake Hide	ALL BLACKS B.V.
14	15	1	FOO FIGHTERS	Something From Nothing	ROSWELL
15	1	15	LONELY THE BRAVE	Trick Of The Light	HASSLE
16	2	16	AS IT IS	Dial Tones	FEARLESS
17	6	13	WHILE SHE SLEEPS	Four Walls	SEARCH AND DESTROY
18	20	1	FALL OUT BOY	Centuries	ISLAND
19	1	19	FORT HOPE	Plans	LAB
20	9	9	A DAY TO REMEMBER	I'm Already Gone	ADTR RECORDS

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 12:30pm with Dan Hudson, and also on K! TV Thursdays at 5pm and Saturdays at 6pm. Tune in and listen up!

KERRANG! TV

KERRANG! RADIO

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2 COLLECT 10 TOKENS AND CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE EXCLUSIVE BAND T-SHIRT – YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IT ANYWHERE ELSE!

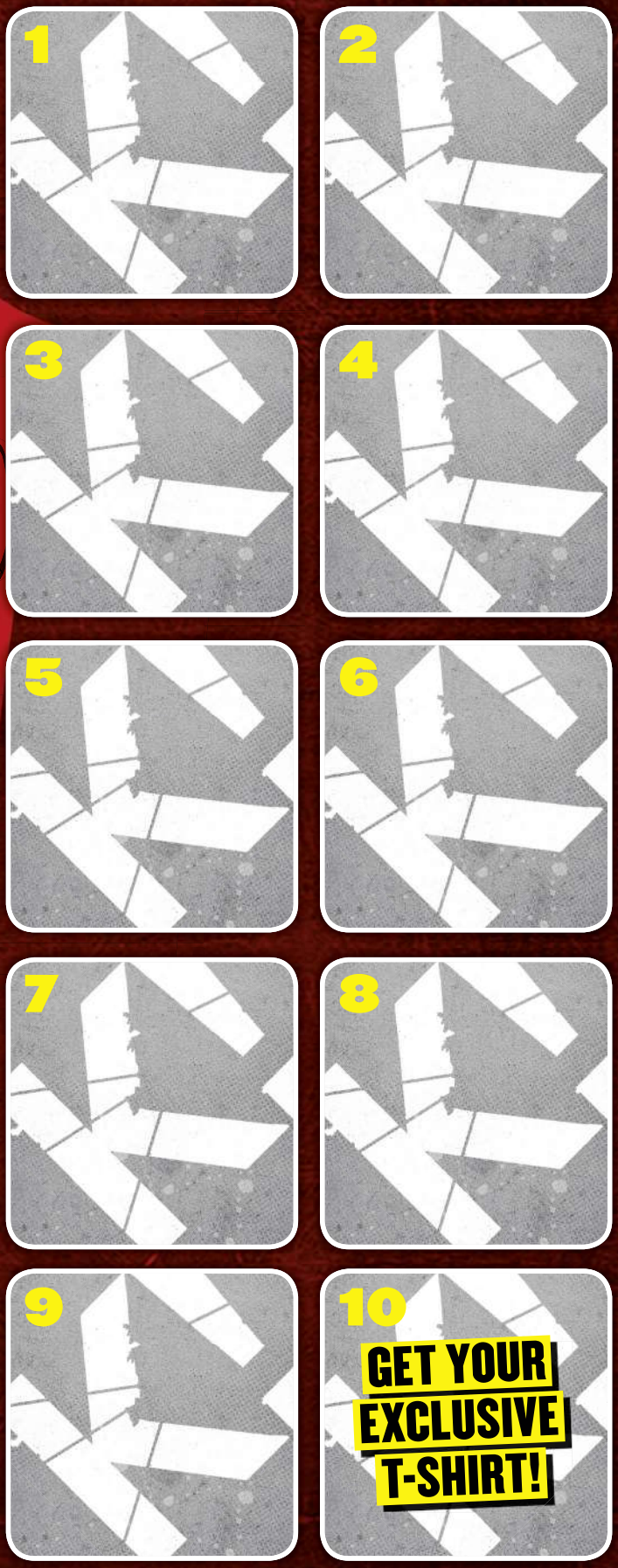
3 EVERY WEEK, STICK YOUR TOKEN ON THE GRID OPPOSITE. ONCE YOU'VE COLLECTED ENOUGH FOR A T-SHIRT, SEND THE GRID TO US ALONG WITH THE FORM. YOU DON'T EVEN NEED A STAMP!

4 WE MUST RECEIVE ALL GRIDS/FORMS BY APRIL 8, 2015. ALL T-SHIRTS WILL BE POSTED OUT IN MAY

5 ANY QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT TSHIRTS@KERRANG.COM

THIS IS YOUR TOKEN!

START COLLECTING NOW!



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TO CLAIM YOUR EXCLUSIVE T-SHIRT, FILL IN YOUR DETAILS AND SEND TO: KERRANG! FREEPOST RSKX-CGJL-SJUL, BEECH ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE, HP11 1RY BY APRIL 8, 2015

❑ I AM 16 YEARS OR OVER

❑ I AM UNDER 16 AND HAVE PARENTAL CONSENT TO COLLECT TOKENS FOR A FREE T-SHIRT

I'VE COLLECTED 10 K! TOKENS AND I WANT A T-SHIRT DESIGNED BY:
- ❑ All Time Low
- ❑ A Day To Remember
- ❑ Sleeping With Sirens
- ❑ Enter Shikari

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- ❑ Small
- ❑ Medium
- ❑ Large
- ❑ X-large

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ POSTCODE _____

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PHONE NUMBER _____ DOB _____

❑ MALE ❑ FEMALE

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BLACK HOLES

"YOU WANT TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK. NEVER LET THEM GET COMFORTABLE. KEEP THEM CONSTANTLY ON THEIR TOES"
ROU REYNOLDS

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, PUT YOUR HELMETS ON!: (*from left*) Rory Clewlow, Chris Batten, Rou Reynolds and Rob Rolfe

& REVOLUTIONS

BOUNDARIES HAVE NEVER MEANT MUCH TO ENTER SHIKARI. BUT WITH THEIR STAGGERING NEW ALBUM, THE MINDSWEEP, THEY'RE SET TO TAKE ROCK TO PLACES IT'S NEVER PREVIOUSLY DARED VENTURE...

WORDS: JOHN LONGBOTTOM **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES
DIGITAL ART: STEVE HORSEFALL

In a backyard in Ohio, some 70-plus years ago, a child would kill his boredom by playing about with model rockets, dreaming – as we probably all have at some time in our life – of one day leaving the Earth behind. The seeds of innovation, a fascination with ideas above his very modest station, were sewn early and, ultimately, that passion would soon take the young boy to the moon and back.

Despite the impression the photos on this page might give you, Enter Shikari have not yet become the first band to follow in legendary astronaut Neil Armstrong's intergalactic footsteps. Yet in rock's planetary system, frontman Rou Reynolds, guitarist Rory Clewlow, bassist Chris Batten and drummer Rob Rolfe are about as close to astronauts as you're likely to find on record, boldly going where no band has gone before.

From the utterly unique blend of sounds that makes up their music, to the onstage production that makes their shows so out of this world, to the message of a better planet they so passionately preach, Enter Shikari are rock's most unique innovators – four boys from St Albans single-handedly expanding the horizons of what it means to be a rock band.

Drifting about in the band's gigantic practice space near Heathrow, west London, Rou can barely contain his excitement. Following the critical and commercial success of their fourth album, the 5K-rated The Mindsweep, Shikari are fuelling their rocket ships in anticipation for their most expansive UK tour ever. "We've replicated our album artwork from The Mindsweep in 3D," Rou beams of the gigantic stage set-up being put through its paces behind him. "We've got a printed backdrop, which is the artwork itself, then hanging in front of it we have an aluminium structure of an inverted triangle in a circle. Weaved in and out of that structure is rope lighting packed with really strong LEDs. They burst out of the structure and go off all over the stage, onto the amps – even into the rigging on the roof."

As anyone who has been to a Shikari show will know, the band operate on an entirely different level from most bands when it comes to production. And the 10-date expedition upon which Shikari embarked this week might just be their boldest yet.

"We've got a running joke among our crew that we spend all our money on lights and have no money for, like, drumsticks or plectrums," laughs Rory. "Ultimately, the audience don't care if you have new drumsticks and plectrums, but a good lighting show is gonna make the gig a lot more special for them. I would probably have a Jacuzzi in my back garden if we just had a smoke machine and a couple of strobes (*laughs*)."

"With this current stage set-up, we're replicating the neurons in your brain shooting off out into the world," finishes Rou, by means of, um, explanation.

Just thinking about that has made a few of our neurons shoot off into the world. Yet it's a prime example of how Enter Shikari are

straddling the fine line between genius and insanity. To understand that balance, though, is to take a trip inside the black hole of Rou's mind in search of the secrets behind this almost incomprehensively inventive of bands…

Finger lights. While Enter Shikari fans are set to be dazzled by the latest incarnation of the band's legendary production on this UK tour, those who saw the band many moons ago at any of the UK's smallest venues will be familiar with the concept of finger lights. Tiny, flashing LEDs that strap to the pointy bits at the ends of your hands. Think E.T. at a rave. The band used to sell them on their merch stand at shows. Cheap, crude fun. In a production sense, they were Shikari's model rockets.

"What I loved about finger lights was the fact that it brought the audience in as part of the show," recalls Rou. "It broke that boundary between the stage and the fans and, well, it used to just look amazing when there were so many."

It's not uncommon now for bands to ask fans to hold their phones in the air at shows to create a galaxy of light. Enter Shikari were doing the same thing a decade ago in rooms not much bigger than your front garden. Now, though, they've bigger rooms than ever and brain-bursting neuron lights.

The early innovation in Shikari's formative years wasn't just limited to their production, of course. In what seems almost incomprehensible in an era where a musician's success can be casually judged by the number of Facebook likes they have, Enter Shikari were among the first bands in the world to capitalise on networks outside of those in their local pub.

"I think after the hundredth interview of people asking us, 'Oh, so you guys came out of Myspace…' I started to get a bit annoyed. It sounded like it was this huge machine that had birthed us!" the frontman laughs.

In reality, though, the media's obsession with the band's innovative approach to social networking is testimony to their genius. Alongside a handful of other breakthrough musicians, Enter Shikari drew up the blueprint for modern DIY bands. Tour hard in the real world; network hard in the digital world.

"For us, it just seemed like the natural way to do things," says Rou, modestly. "In the very early days, you'd be going to these little towns and cities that you'd never been to before and you didn't know anyone. We'd meet new people – other bands, their fans, their fans' friends, and we'd get to talk to them. They'd add us on Myspace because it enabled us to keep in touch. That's why we really embraced it. We started getting bigger and bigger, but we always made an effort to sit down and speak to people online."

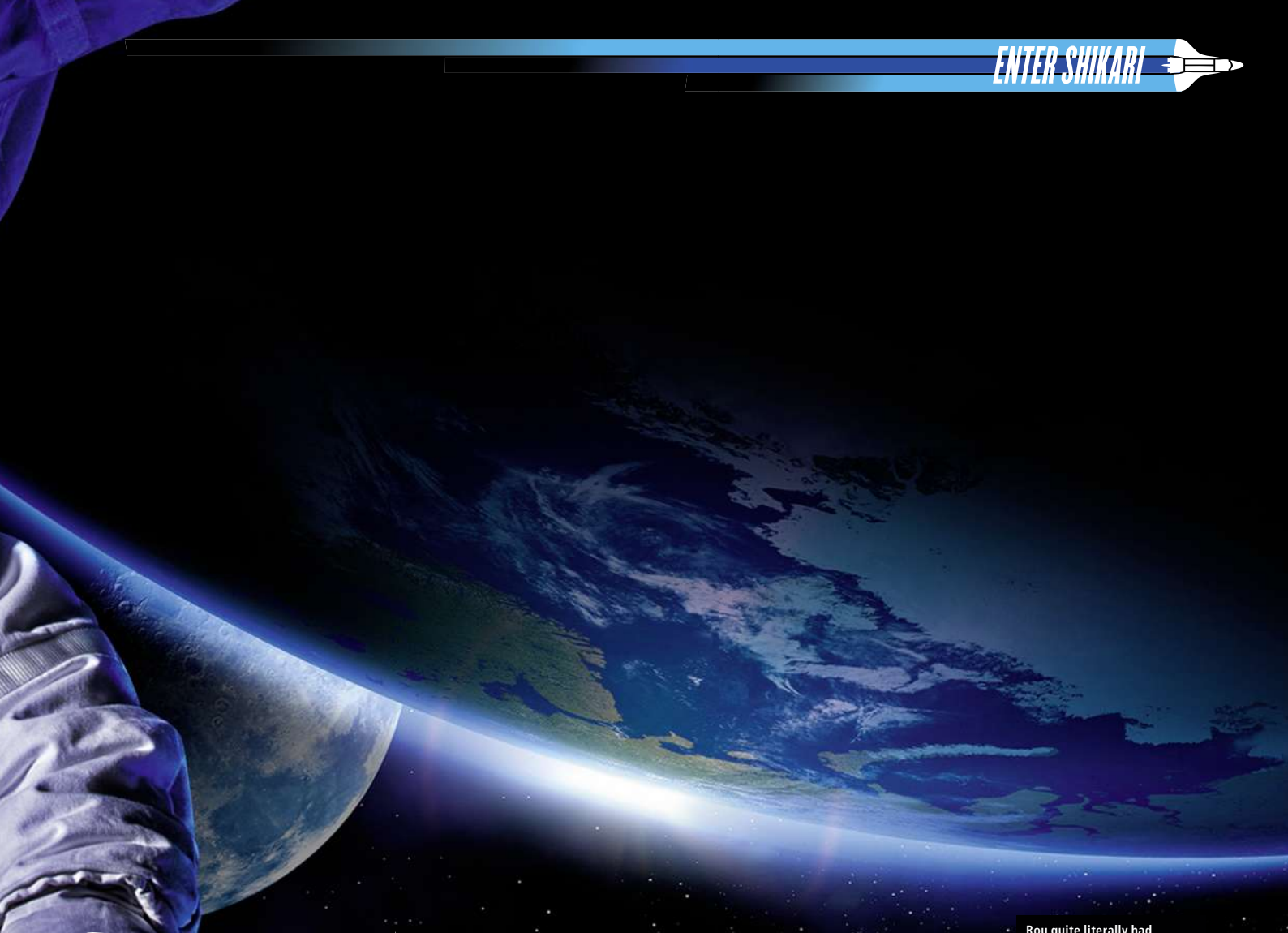
> **"I'M NATURALLY QUITE SHY. ONCE I HAD THE BAND, I HAD AN OUTLET"**
> ROU REYNOLDS

With the gift of hindsight, it's easy to shrug off decisions as just seeming like the natural thing to do, but sometimes what feels natural to one band might be utterly terrifying to another. Take, for example, Shikari's music.

The Shikari sound is a melting pot of genres and ideas that has, at one point or another, incorporated spoken-word monologues, bass drops, handclaps, trumpet solos, dubstep, synths, strings, screams, beatdowns, piano detours and cries of, "Yabba-dabba-do one, son!" and, "You fucking spanner!"

On paper it's, well, utterly absurd. In practice, it's carnage held together with magic. To put just how mad Shikari's music is into perspective, just imagine trying to explain them to an alien. Actually, scrap that. Just imagine trying to explain it to your mum and dad. It'd be like trying to explain Snapchat or Nando's Cards or the plot of Game Of Thrones to them. You probably wouldn't even bother. And that's because they're music for a generation, right on the razor's edge of what's current.

It took 66 years to go from the Wright brothers making the first-ever human flight to Neil Armstrong wandering about on the moon;



Rou quite literally had nowhere else on Earth to look for his missing house keys

NEVER LET GO OF THE MICROSCOPE

ENTER SHIKARI ARE RESHAPING THE ROCK LANDSCAPE, BUT WHAT ARE ROU'S FIVE FAVOURITE INNOVATIONS EVER?

WHEELIE SUITCASES

"How many fucking years were we foolishly lugging around heavy suitcases before we put wheels on them? I mean, we had trains, automobiles – all sorts of wheel-based shit. But no bright spark could dream up in a moment of grand inspiration of putting wheels on suitcases."

VERTICAL FARMING

"No, we don't need genetically modified food. No, we don't have too many people on this planet to feed. This is already the case, but when you add in vertical farming – i.e. skyscrapers full of crops thanks to hydroponics [soilless agriculture] – then we really have no problem at all with providing everyone with good, nutritious food."

BEER

"The oldest beverages humans have produced date back at least to the 5th millennium BC, when some Mesopotamian geezer invented beer. There are Sumerian tablets that are basically receipts and recipes for beer [describing its fruition from barley via bread]. Seeing as we're talking over 5,000 years before Christ, that means if we are gonna worship anything, it should really be beer, right?"

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

"Staying in the far past, I'd like to salute the cave-dwelling folk who invented the first musical instrument. It was a kind of flute made out of bone and dates back to around 40,000 years ago! What would we all be without music?"

THE INTERNET

"The best tool we have to connect and communicate on a global scale, to make the world smaller, to obtain and share information, to educate and to take the power back."

and it took only 34 for rock to go from AC/DC gracing the first cover of Kerrang! to Enter Shikari drifting about on the front of this issue. And, relatively speaking at least, that's about the same amount of distance covered.

Interestingly, Shikari's habit of pushing their sound deeper into unexplored territory has left them with a unique challenge when it comes to writing albums. Where fans of bands such as the aforementioned AC/DC expect the band to release an album that's built to the blueprint of their previous records, Shikari fans have instead come to expect the unexpected.

"There's a quote I like by Oscar Wilde," grins Rou. "'A true artist takes no notice whatsoever of the public; the public to him are nonexistent.' On the face of it, that sounds like you're really up yourself (*laughs*). I think what he meant, though, is that you shouldn't demean your audience by just dishing them the same stuff that they want. You want to make them think. Never let them get comfortable. Keep them constantly on their toes."

If you can say one thing for Shikari, it's that they know how to keep their audience guessing. Speaking of which, did we mention Game Of Thrones earlier? Because, when Shikari recorded a BBC Radio 1 live session recently, instead of just turning up and blasting through a couple of their singles, à la every band ever, they decided to cover the cult TV show's theme tune. It was business as unusual – messing with people's expectations, reaching in and rewiring their brains. Innovation beyond expectation. To infinity and beyond.

It wouldn't be unreasonable to presume that constantly welding trumpet solos to bass drops and tightening the nuts and bolts with fucking spanners must get exhausting – and hold vast pressures of its own. But when posed with such an idea, Rou is quick to say that, surprisingly, it's actually getting easier.

Genre-blending, the premise on which Enter Shikari's music was built when they started in 2003, is now more commonplace than ever – leading to ever-progressive sounds from the likes of Fall Out Boy and Falling In Reverse.

"Everyone's doing crossover stuff in rock now. The trend has gone towards more genre-blending," Rou explains. "It's not unusual anymore to find a metalcore song with a big trance bit in the middle. It does piss me off, though, when it's just done without any, uh, respect for the genres that they're borrowing from. They don't necessarily know the history of the scenes, they're just lifting out some bits and popping it into their music really heavy-handedly and going, 'Oh yeah, this is cool because it's defying genres!' People should take influence from different types of music, but it should be done with a bit of class and a delicate touch.

"Ultimately," he concludes, "if music's just conveying an emotion, then the wider your palate, the more technology at your fingertips, the more sounds you can produce, the more interesting your music's gonna be and the more emotion it's gonna evoke. You have more control. You can convey more. And that can

only be a good thing for bands and a good thing for rock."

Rou should know, too. He's been doing exactly this for over a decade, once again waiting as, slowly but surely, the grinding gears of the mainstream align with where Shikari have stood for years.

It takes a unique mind to live on a frontier. And the more that we speak to Rou and Rory, the closer we are to gleaning lessons about the future of rock. There's every chance that – like their production, like their social networking, like their genre-blending – the things they are doing right now may one day be considered a staple of rock.

Right now, Shikari are on their headline tour across the UK. One glance at their tour poster, however, will tell you this is no ordinary tour. The band have hand-picked their support acts and, true to form, they have flown in the face of convention.

Rather than selecting bands on a theme or from within a single (or even similar) genre, the band have assembled a line-up consisting of heavy bruisers Feed The Rhino, Allusondrugs (a psych-tinged grunge band), and Fatherson (a Scottish folk-rock band). Like with so many things in the Enter Shikari world, on paper it makes zero sense. But could this be a sign of things to come?

"Our fans are quite open-minded," says guitarist Rory. "We picked these supports because we liked them and because we think that our fans will like them."

"Sometimes you just wanna make sure that you're touring with bands not only that you respect, but also that you really love," enthuses Rou. "You know they're gonna get you into the mood to play a show so, yeah, there's a little bit of selfishness that goes into it as well."

While it's true that few bands other than Enter Shikari could credibly curate a bill this wild, perhaps, in years to come, the genre walls of big tours will be broken down more regularly.

Looking at Shikari's track record, it's not hard to imagine that to be the case. But here's an idea for you: what if their influence isn't just limited to rock? What if it isn't even limited to music? What if their ideas and their innovations spread into the wider world?

Like Rage Against The Machine, Rise Against and Architects, Enter Shikari are a band who want to wake up the world. Through their lyrics and the politically charged messages,

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A RADIO SHOW...

Get the Kerrang! Radio App and listen all week as Enter Shikari go under the Kerrang! Radio Spotlight! See Kerrang.com for more info.

The cast of Prometheus 2: You Fucking Spanner was unveiled

LIFE ON MARS

WE DON'T KNOW IF ALIENS EXIST, BUT IF THEY DID, THIS IS WHAT SHIKARI THINK THEY'D LOOK LIKE

which cover topics as grand as climate change, privatisation and civil liberties, the band are attracting, and even creating, activists. Young, intelligent minds who may well go forward and change society as we know it. So, could those leaning on venue barriers around the country soon be leaning on horizons instead of steel?

"There are people who get into our band because of the politics," says Rou earnestly. "Then there are people who get into the politics because of our band. We've even had people that come up to us and say that we have influenced their career choice, or that they're studying environmental science and all sorts of incredible subjects because of us. I'm often quite jealous when I speak to them."

"It's important," Rory adds, "to feel like you're doing something that's for the greater good."

So, what, then, is the 'greater good' that Enter Shikari stand for?

"I think Enter Shikari stands for unity," says the frontman, after a long and considered pause. "When you look at the world right now, there aren't many things that unite people, or even bring them physically together. We're seeing a decline in religion, which, although incredibly divisive on a grand scale, has in the past united smaller communities. If you think about music festivals, they're one of the few things left where people come together and celebrate a common love. Enter Shikari are part of that. We're a uniting force."

He's not wrong, though we're forced to ask if Rou has always been this philosophical. Perhaps that's the streak that allows Enter Shikari to operate so far outside of the box that they're stratospheric – less blue-sky thinking, and more black-hole dreaming, as they suck up knowledge and influence and crush it into the unfathomable singularity that is their band.

"The philosophical and political stuff only really came to fruition when the band started," Rou says. "I'm naturally quite a shy, diffident person. But once I had the band, I had an outlet."

Shikari, then, is the craft that has carried Rou and his copilots further into unknown territory than any band before them. But what provides the thrust that has seen them break from the binds of convention? What, for the want of a better phrase, is Shikari's rocket fuel?

"Honestly, I think that a lot of our progress comes from the fact that we get bored really easily," Rou smiles. "We get fidgety. For example, once we've completed an album cycle – like, after two years of playing the same music – we just desperately want to do something totally different and push it again.

"When we're writing new songs, working out new stage layouts, playing with new bands – that's the exciting stuff," he adds. "We really get a kick out of being in that creative flow and challenging ourselves."

> **"WE GET A KICK OUT OF CHALLENGING OURSELVES"**
> ROU REYNOLDS

There's undeniably part of us that hoped Rou would cite the secret behind the UK's most pioneering band as being something explosively exciting, like a breakfast of Weetabix and paraffin. Yet boredom was, after all, what brought a kid in his yard to seek excitement in rockets, so it hardly seems unreasonable that it's what propelled the band from toilet venue to toilet venue in those early formative days. Or even what still propels them now – constantly seeking bigger, bolder and more extraterrestrial lights to match their bigger, bolder and more extraterrestrial sounds.

"There's a line in [2010 track] Destabilize, *'Don't ever respect conventional thought without reason'*, Rou says. "That [is] a definite running theme throughout all our music. There's something liberating about having something you thought was normality come crashing down. It's tough, but there's something life-affirming about that experience. I guess it's just about making sure you're open to that."

The future of band-kind might depend on it.

ENTER SHIKARI ARE ON TOUR RIGHT NOW. SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR DETAILS

GUARDIAN GALA

ENTER SHIKARI AREN'T BOUNDARIES – THEY'RE BANDS SAFEGUARDING

BRING ME THE HORIZON

BRINGING METAL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

It's funny, looking back. At their first gasps almost a decade ago, Bring Me The Horizon were tagged as one of the most generic metalcore bands in existence. How they must have laughed as they walked away at the end of last year, having played two of the gigs of 2014 at Download and an absolutely crushing extravaganza at Wembley. See, BMTH may have started generic, but you've gotta start somewhere. And it's where they went that has made them one of the best metal bands in the world. Linkin Park choruses, massive electronic swoops, keyboards everywhere. It's like saying an acorn hasn't got any ideas. But my, how they continue to grow in might.

HELLIONS

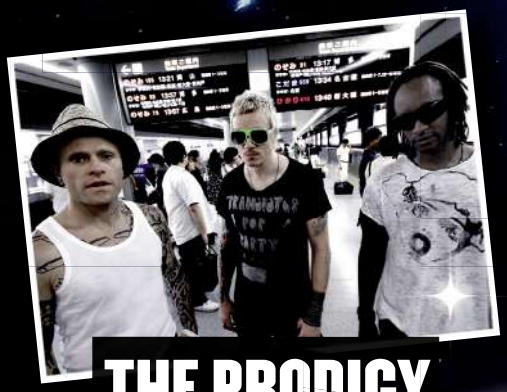
REWRITING HARDCORE'S KNACKERED OLD RULEBOOK

These Aussie upstarts can't sit still for a second, and in more ways than one. Formed from the ashes of The Bride in 2013, the Sydney hardcore mob have already collaborated with a whole cast of mates across the punk scene down under and written *two* albums. Latest 4K-rated effort Indian Summer stacked a whole host of riff-shitting monoliths, with plenty of gut-slicing grooves sprinkled with unexpected smatterings of pop-punk bounce, melodic MCR textures and even early Dillinger-esque jazzy instrumentals. Hellions vehemently refuse to be pigeonholed, and you know what? We *need* more bands like that.

FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS

SINKING TEETH INTO SOCIAL NETWORKS

Facebook? Pah, not fangtastic enough for FVK, who launched their *own* online social network, The Obsidian Bond, enabling fans to contact with the band, unlock ultra-nerdy content, listen to extra tracks, and share writings on the band. Next thing you know, co-vocalist Kier Kemp will be the subject of a David Fincher film.



THE PRODIGY

PUTTING THE RAVE INTO ROCK

At the turn of the '90s, it was all glowsticks and incandescent war paint in ecstasy-fuelled basement raves. But when The Prodigy started welding robotic metal riffs into their electronic skullduggery, it became a Molotov cocktail for the jilted generation. How many other bands can play Download, V Festival, T In The Park, Creamfields, Reading, Glastonbury and The Nantwich Cheese Show? Okay, we might have made that last one up, but still… Thanks to barriers they continue to knock down, is there *anywhere* rock is no longer welcome?

HOW DO YOU THINK ROCK MUSIC HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU FIRST STARTED THE PRODIGY?

LIAM HOWLETT (*VOCALS/DJ*): "I think it's got better and better. Unfortunately, there hasn't been a band like Rage Against The Machine for a while. There's Slipknot; they're their own thing – the chaos is there. People still want it. I always love watching them."

HOW HAS ROCK EMBRACED YOU?

"We played Download in the daytime [one year]. The atmosphere was amazing. We'd much rather do that type of thing than a dance event. You know proper music fans are there, not weekend ravers. These people are into music and they know what they like. I get more realness out of it, more fire. I like walking out to the crowd at Download because it's mad. It's inspirational. A lot of the bands are fans of us. We're fans of them, too. Some guitar bands bring electronics in. We're electronic [and] bring the guitars in. We have a connection there with other bands. We bump into people like Mastodon. I really like them."

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF ROCK LOOK LIKE?

"People are ready for a big, dangerous rock band. It's got to be pure. Pure guitars. No electronics."

WORDS: MATT ALLEN, NICK RUSKELL, AMIT SHARMA, JENNYFER J. WALKER

S OF THE AXY

THE ONLY BAND REDEFINING JOINED BY THESE 20 OTHER AND SHAPING ROCK'S FUTURE...

ACHERONTAS
TAKING BLACK METAL DEEPER UNDERGROUND

Black metal's reputation as the exclusive domain of the primitive, the sloppy and the wilfully lo-fi are long gone. In 2015, it is shadowy Greek Satanists Acherontas who are raising the genre's IQ to an insane degree. On their recent, 5K-rated Ma-IoN (Formulas of Reptilian Unification), mainman V. Priest commented, "It is a magical provocation to those with eyes to see and feel their potential, to stir the stagnated waters of reality." Basically, he's not just saying the heavy bits are heavier and the melodic parts are more melodic.

FALL OUT BOY
CROSSOVER KINGS STILL LOVE TO POP THE WEASEL

Are they tricking pop fans into liking rock? Or is it the other way 'round? You can never quite tell these days, but FOB are one of very few bands doing it on their *own* terms. American Beauty/American Psycho showed zero sign of retreating to safer, neutral territory, but simply found the quartet doing – as they explain – *as they damn well please…*

PATRICK STUMP: "We've always been a band that want to lead with our weird foot. You can't go safe. The safer you go, the less reason there is to be doing this. I don't wanna listen to rock music that is stuck in 1975. I don't wanna listen to rock that pretends hip-hop didn't happen. When it becomes just 'traditional music', it's boring."

PETE WENTZ: "You have to accept that if you're gonna make progressive art, then there is going to be moments when you take a sharp turn and it takes everybody a minute to catch up. Or maybe you take a sharp turn, and it's not exactly in the right direction, but that's why it's art. It's a project."

PATRICK: "Every big and bold step any artist takes now is met with a chorus of boos. And you can't care. I'm a people-pleaser, but it's most important to do things honestly, [rather] than on some presumption that you know what they want."

PETE: "Being able to write songs that we feel would be great on the radio, and then being able to write songs that we think are going to push the envelope of what people expect of us, are both really important."

ISSUES
NU-METAL REVITALISED

Nu-metal died because it was out of ideas. The survivors – Korn, Slipknot, Deftones – were innovators who always resisted the tag of the genre they helped spearhead. In 2015, Issues have taken nu-metal's grooves, scratches and bounce and bent it into their own shape. And with Tyler Carter at the helm – a man for whom a day without writing a song seems like a waste – they're not gonna go the same way as (Hed)p.e. anytime soon.

RAKETKANON
WHO NEEDS LYRICS ANYWAY?

In a move designed to limbo the language barrier, Belgian oddball groove machine Raketkanon don't even bother with real words. "This band can't bear clichéd lyrics," singer Pieter-Paul Devis says of his 'noises'. "It's something beyond the spoken word." So, not just laziness, then.

NINE INCH NAILS
CHUCKING ROCK INTO MOVIELAND

Trent Reznor isn't one for constraints. The industrial tag wasn't one that covered all of his NIN ambitions, as with goth, and 'rockstar' doesn't quite get to the heart of the man. His grandstanding idea of where a musician's creativity should(n't) stop has made NIN one of the world's most spectacularly captivating artists in rock. But not even the rock world can hold him – now Trent's taken on Hollywood and won, earning himself a deserved reputation as a soundtrackist par excellence, even winning himself an Oscar for The Social Network soundtrack to boot. Because, as ever, if Trent's doing something, he's going to do it more ambitiously than anyone else.

GERARD WAY
A ONE-MAN MISSION TO PUT FUZZ ON THE RADIO

GERARD SAYS… "I never thought about what I was doing [making 2014 album Hesitant Alien]. I never thought, 'What's this going to mean to somebody?' And thank god I didn't take it too seriously, because it was fun just sitting there and taking the fuzz pedals and plugging them in and trying stuff out and hitting a button and then it going 'urgg' feeding back in your face. I'd be like, 'That's awesome, lets record it! It's giving me a headache, but let's do it.' I was making myself laugh at times because the distortion was so fucked up. There were points where someone would ask me if something was broken and I'd be like, 'Yeah, I think it is, so let's record it again!' A lot of the stuff is broken shit, and Doug [McKean, producer] would laugh because there would be times when he would be tweaking the sound or he would turn to me and he would say, 'Does that sound shitty enough for you?'"

DAVE DID THE WORDS THE NIGHT BEFORE

Basically the lyrical equivalent of leaving your homework until 8pm on a Sunday night… but ol' Grohl had a reasoning to his madness. It'd give him a chance to vibe off where he was, quickly gather his thoughts and bust out something impulsive. Fortunately, he didn't end up with a load of ill-thought, regrettable horseshit.

THEY MADE A MASTERFUL DOCUMENTARY OUT OF IT

Because simply making an album would have been too easy, the Foos thought, 'Let's document this and make a TV show for HBO about each city we're in.' So, we not only get a new album, but a historical tour around the roots of punk, country, blues and rock'n'roll. Bit better than a secret track, eh?

THEY RECORDED IN EIGHT DIFFERENT STUDIOS

…in eight different American cities, in tribute to each one's musical heritage. Which, we imagine, was a massive headache for everyone who had to, y'know, make this shit happen. The plan was to vibe off each place's history. Which is better than going to an industrial estate in a satellite town for a weekend to record.

MYRKUR

ONE WOMAN. A LOT OF NOISE

One-man black metal bands? Been done since Bathory kicked the whole thing off in the '80s, *dude*. But one-man black metal in 2015? Being spearheaded by one woman, making music with more panoramic vision and unhindered vastness than a single brain probably should? Myrkur's superb self-titled EP is an overbearing shadow of black metal atmosphere at its coldest and loneliest. It's a sound for solitude, late nights, and – should you have thick enough socks – snow-covered walks through the woods at night.

PPL MVR

THE NEW MONSTERS OF ROCK

At first we thought The Mighty Boosh were back with their fourth series, but no, PPL MVR are actually a thing. Other than being three giant yetis that stomp around singing this song they wrote about themselves, not much is known about our galaxy's newest power trio. It's a great song, though. And though they only communicate in interviews through grunts, they've turned a fair few heads very early on in their career. Which is the dream, right? To skip past all those wasted years playing shitholes in the middle of nowhere by dressing up like Chewbacca's Kiss-loving, Satan-worshipping younger brothers? Of course it is.

DEAFHEAVEN

BRINGING BLACK METAL TO THE MASSES

Boy bands in Darkthrone shirts? Mayhem merch in high-street fashion stores? What have Deafheaven done to black metal? Okay, it's easy to see why San Franciscans have been condemned by some of the more elitist fans out there, but 2013's Sunbather inarguably took heavy sounds to new anthemic heights, and *no*, not like Fall Out Boy. Despite their thick varnish of indie-baiting shoegaze sheen, it's still music that will have the neighbours convinced you murdered someone in your basement. And that's *always* a good thing.

EMMA BLACKERY

LEADING THE DIY REVOLUTION

She's rewritten the rules for how to 'make it' in music, and gone from her bedroom to stages around the country quicker than you can click 'Skip Ad' on her YouTube videos. Emma explains how you can follow in her footsteps…

1. DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE RISKS!

EMMA SAYS: "When I started, I was a waitress and not making that much money at all. So, I got a credit card and I bought a camera on it. Which was a risk, in the hope it would somehow work out. It was really nerve-wracking uploading my first music video for Go The Distance. I didn't know how it was gonna go down, but it paid off in the end. You have to take risks otherwise you'll never try things."

2. DO WHAT YOU ENJOY!

EMMA SAYS: "I'd rather do what I want, when I want, for less success, than be successful in something I don't like. It sounds cheesy, but that's very important. Otherwise you won't want to get up in the morning!"

3. JOIN BANDS IN YOUR LOCAL AREA!

EMMA SAYS: "Before I started my YouTube, I played in bands with people that lived nearby. I got experience songwriting and collaborating with other people, and even though it didn't work out, it actually helped me realise I'm better off by myself."

4. IGNORE THE TROLLS!

EMMA SAYS: "I've had my fair share of hate online. It used to really affect me; I'd get upset over one dislike or comment. You need to remember what it is you're trying to do and remain focused on what you started out doing. Don't ever get distracted by all the hate."

5. BE YOURSELF!

EMMA SAYS: "Social media is about being yourself, very open and honest. You have to bring something new to the table. You have to be different. People need to think there's no-one else like you. I don't have a team of people having meetings or anything. I edit everything myself, I don't use any other editors or have someone else filming, really. And I've done well on my own, I think!"

PIC: RYAN JOHNSTON

MARMOZETS

THE NORTH STANDS FOR EVERYTHING

They're weird, they're wonderful and they're definitely born young and free. Last year, Bingley, West Yorkshire's finest, Marmozets, proved the UK is still more than capable of producing world-beating bands that *belong* in the mainstream without diluting their ideals. Theirs is a sound so raw and real, it makes much of today's music scene seemed dialled in and phoney by comparison. And singer Becca Macintyre is the definition of a superstar in the making – an inspiration to countless aspiring female musicians the world over to stay true to themselves and walk tall in a male-dominated world.

THE ONE HUNDRED

THE NEW MASTERS OF MASHUP

Taking the ball The Prodigy set rolling and running with it, The One Hundred are leading the pack of the new wave of rave-rock. If you plugged a headphone jack into Futurama's Bender, this is the sound you'd hear inside his head. And in frontman Jacob Field, they have the singer that has it *all*: someone born with a natural ability to switch between rapping, screaming and singing with the kind of ease the world has only ever seen from Mike Patton.

BABYMETAL

HERE TO SAVE METAL UNDER ORDERS OF THE FOX GOD, OBVIOUSLY

Some people are still scratching their heads over Babymetal, and that's perfectly *okay*. On one hand, it's certainly a strange, if not awkward sight, to see mid-teen Japanese pop idols invoke the kind of mosh-pits Machine Head are used to seeing. But on the other, doesn't their existence make the world of modern music that much more *exciting*? No-one could have predicted their arrival, but it happened, deal with it. You could be forgiven for thinking these young prodigies of 'The Fox God' stand as one of metal's biggest hopes, exposing younger fans to heavier sounds and flying the flag proud on tour with Lady Gaga.

IN THIS MOMENT

PUSHING LIVE SHOWS TO THE BRINK

In This Moment's live rituals have to be seen to be believed: a twisted circus of horrors that bring frontwoman Maria Brink's darkest thoughts to life. There are giant spider webs, bunny monsters, hydraulic guns, freakily expressive dance… it's the Mad Hatter's tea party gone horribly, horribly wrong, and puts a million preplanned walls of death to shame in the spectacle stakes.

NOTHING MORE

TOURING WHILE SAVING THE PLANET

Bands, remember this next time you get on your private jet: Nothing More would probably make the same journey in a contraption made out of a hang-glider, a shopping trolley and a rubber band. Their method of touring involves cutting their carbon footprint as much as possible. Why use smelly petrol when you can power your van with old cooking oil? Need a spare part onstage? Surely you can make it out of waste metal? Basically, they're a rock Scrapheap Challenge.

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SHOTS!

SET THE WALLS ON FIRE! IT'S NEW BVB PICS!

ANDY BIERSACK

Andy hasn't always been the frontman of the blackest veiled band ever. We know it seems impossible there was a life before BVB. But, once upon a time, Mr Biersack attended a performing arts high school and spent his time acting and being a regular Ryan Gosling. Dramatic? This one? Never.

CHRISTIAN "CC" COMA

Can you imagine Christian suited and booted and sat behind a full orchestra? Nah, neither can we. But CC doesn't just whack things willy-nilly. He's a classically trained musician *and* he started out as an actual jazz drummer. Bet you a Mars bar he didn't wear the eyeliner back then.

THE WRETCHED AND DIVINE

They're not called BVB just because it sounds cool. They're named after nuns who marry the church and reject the cardinal pleasures of life. Well, K! snapper Andrew Lipovsky, who shot these pics, revealed they'd all had a bit of a rough one the night before. Not giving it all up yet then, lads…

JINXX

Fun fact: before Mr Jeremy Miles Ferguson was playing geetar for this lot he actually majored in graphic design. Like, art and shapes and all that. You know what, Jinxx, mate? If the band stuff all goes down the pan, there's a job here at K! doing some mag pages for us. Just don't tell the Art Ed…

ASHLEY PURDY

He might consider himself to be the most girly member of the band. He might adore Hello Kitty. He might own at least one pair of hair straighteners. But that doesn't stop Ash making some very unsightly gestures at the camera. Don't do that while our grandmas are around, Ash, there's a pal.

JAKE PITTS

You know Jake's real name is Jacob? Nah, us neither. What else are you keeping from us "Jake"? Any secret siblings we should know about? Any fake prosthetics? You'll tell us your eyes aren't really brown, either, next. If there's one thing we can't stand, it's the not knowing. Please, Jake. Please!

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

BLACK VEIL BRIDES

KERRANG!

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

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   Don't feel pressurised or rush into decisions, pace yourself
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THE EMPEROR

One day, there was knock upon the door of Marilyn Manson's California home. Stood upon the 'Welcome' mat, though, was no ordinary visitor. Rather, it was a debt collector. And one with an old score to settle, at that.

Comparing himself to those who sold their soul to Satan to achieve greatness, the shock-rocker today intimates that, during the latter years of his career, he'd fallen behind on his musical dues to the horned one, releasing albums but failing to critically match his previous form. And so he's delivered a new collection of songs, The Pale Emperor, released last month, as restitution. And this time around, people aren't just saying Manson's back – they're calling it a *comeback*.

"You have to admit that to yourself, and that's sometimes a hard pill to swallow, but it makes you more of a man, so to speak," nods Manson, in agreement. "And if we go by the Faustian metaphor that I use on the record, or the Robert Johnson blues crossroads metaphor, if I sold my soul to the Devil [then] I did have to pay him back. And I think that I was a little negligent on my bills. I heard someone knocking on my door, and the hellhounds, so to speak, and I think that this record is payment in full, with interest, thank you, you're welcome, cheque's in the mail, Devil. The Devil being myself, or my audience, or people…"

Once the Antichrist Superstar, then, 2015 finds Marilyn Manson as The Pale Emperor. Recorded with screen composer Tyler Bates (Guardians Of The Galaxy, Watchmen), the God Of Fuck's ninth record grittily draws on the bluesy legacy of the aforementioned Johnson, as well as his own Southern background. Not only that, but the singer has been active in other projects, such as guesting on Avril Lavigne's Bad Girl, appearing in Die Antwoord's Ugly Boy video and starring as white supremacist Ron Tully in Sons Of Anarchy.

This, then, is not just a time of restitution. It's a time of revival.

It's easy to forget that, not long ago, Manson was a man more in credit than debt. With festival-headlining shows around the globe and multimillion-selling albums to his name, he was the larger-than-life enemy of conservatives the world over. Press releases decrying his music and stage show were issued by the Christian right; Tory MPs called for his music to be banned; while the Daily Star described his shows as "pro-pervert" and "monstrous". Marilyn Manson was a household name, whether you were with him

Unveiled: Manson's new mime-in-a-box routine

STRIKES BACK

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, MARILYN MANSON HAS BEEN MORE 'GOD OF WHAT THE FUCK?' THAN 'GOD OF FUCK'. ELEANOR GOODMAN HEARS HOW, ARMED WITH HIS BEST ALBUM IN OVER A DECADE, THE PALE EMPEROR IS USHERING IN A NEW GOLDEN AGE OF GROTESQUE...

PHOTOS: JIRO SCHNEIDER

or against him.

The perception of him as a provocateur would take a sinister turn in 1999, though, when the media baselessly blamed him for the Columbine High School massacre, in which former pupils – incorrectly reported to be Manson fans – shot 13 people dead. 'Killers Worshipped Rock Freak Manson', ran a headline in The Sun. It marked a period which Manson has previously stated left him feeling his career was "shoved in the dirt" – perhaps a surprising sentiment given that his albums have still sold steadily, and he remains an icon to spooky kids worldwide.

"If I was to specify that more specifically..." he begins. "What I meant was, I got to a point where I didn't enjoy doing what I did, because when Columbine happened, all doors were shut on me, and that's when you find out who your friends are. [2000's] Holy Wood (In The Shadow Of The Valley Of Death) is a *very* emotional record for me, and when I listen to it there are still songs that make me cry when I hear 'em."

His drawl becomes more gravelly, indistinct, as he talks about going to rehab, and his friends trying to put him in an institution. His words of advice to himself were, 'Do drugs and drink when you're in a good mood, not when you're in a bad mood, and to do what you do and look good doing it, and be certain about what you're doing, and don't let anything stand in your way.'

So, after Holy Wood, Manson went his own way with 2003's goth-club-dancefloor-filling The Golden Age Of Grotesque, before 2007's Eat Me, Drink Me and 2009's The High End Of Low – albums influenced by his marriage to and divorce from burlesque model/dancer Dita Von Teese, and his subsequent relationship with actress Evan Rachel Wood, the very public nature of which threatened to overshadow the intensity of the music itself. There was the listless Putting Holes In Happiness; the anguished I Want To Kill You Like They Do In The Movies.

"Romance tends to be the most devastating thing if you make art, and people don't think I have that spectrum of emotions," Manson begins, unprompted. "I couldn't be so angry or passionate about things if I didn't have real feelings, and sometimes people think I'm something they see on a piece of paper or the internet and not a real human being. But if you let the barometer in your life tilt towards the direction of the other people that you're with, in any situation, but mostly in romance, you stop being yourself, and then you're not the person that the other person wants, so it's never good to do that. It really makes

Well, it's certainly an improvement on that Mechanical Animals look...

"IT WASN'T UNTIL THIS PAST YEAR THAT I FOUND WHO I WANTED TO BE"

MARILYN MANSON

PORTRAIT OF AN ANTICHRIST SUPERSTAR!

THE COLOURFUL LIFE OF MARILYN MANSON, IN ONE HANDY TIMELINE

1994

Interscope refuse to let Manson use a naked photo of himself as a child as art for debut album Portrait Of An American Family.

1995

The God Of Fuck is ordained by Church Of Satan founder Anton LaVey.

1996

1997

Manson makes his acting debut... playing a porn star, in David Lynch's Lost Highway.

1998

American retailer Target bans Mechanical Animals due to the cover artwork showing Manson as Omega, a genderless alien with breasts.

1999

Manson is caught in a media storm, following incorrect reports that the Columbine massacre gunmen loved his music.

2000

2001

Proving he isn't really a genderless alien, Manson is fined for rubbing his genitalia against a security guard's head.

2002

The Golden Age Of Grotesque, Manson's first art exhibition, is held in Los Angeles.

2003

20

everything fall apart."

He parrots a phrase he's used many times before – "And I have tended to gravitate towards broken birds or been flypaper for damaged women, because I thought I could fix them" – before tellingly adding that "what I needed to fix was myself, but I tried to project that onto other people. That was my error."

Born Villain, released in 2012, was positioned as a comeback album. Yet despite newly driven songs like the sleazy Lay Down Your Goddamn Arms and the throbbing Hey, Cruel World…, it never received a unanimous thumbs-up from fans and critics alike.

"There was a sense of being *lost*, I believe, over the past few years," muses Manson, thinking back. "As much as I wanted to admit to myself I'd found who I wanted to be, I don't think it was until this past year that I found who I wanted to be. Now I have that new knowledge, which is sort of like when you lost your virginity. You're not really sure what to do with your dick, or your music, if you wanna compare the two. I don't know. You have a whole different world in front of you."

Despite Manson's perennially dark image, this "whole different world" is bright and fulfilling. While making Born Villain, he felt introverted and stayed inside his "strange, damp studio flat". With The Pale Emperor, he began work the day after moving into a new house, and regularly went out.

"I think eventually that record was… I'm not going to disregard everything I've done in the past, but I'm just going to say that I had a *grand desire*. I would wake up, go running, and not just from the police," he quips, "but as a healthy exercise – because I had to balance out." His voice takes on a typically dry tone, as he continues: "If you want to be indestructible and drink and do drugs, you really have to tend to be tough enough to get into a fight that you're not going to lose. So I started fight training. I don't know why, I mean I know I like to get into fights… but everything happened."

Ask the vocalist what satisfies him in 2015, and the answer isn't absinthe, accolades, or debauchery like the Roman emperor referenced in his album title – it's this sense of routine that has allowed the pieces of his life to fall into place.

"It's my conditioning, you know?" he responds. "Being on tour from the day that I left my home for the first time, I had a piece of paper every day that said, 'Here's when you get up, here's when you do soundcheck, here's when you do a show…' It's not comparable to my father in Vietnam, but we were discussing the difficulty from when you're in such a surreal reality to come back to what could be considered a regular reality."

Rather than stifling Manson's creativity, though, this structure appears to have enhanced it. He and Tyler Bates, who he met while working on Californication in 2013, would sit opposite each other to compose. The languid Birds Of Hell Awaiting came first, with the riff from The Beautiful People given a sinister, Southern makeover. Manson drew on time living in his native Ohio, Florida and New Orleans ("N'awlins"), as well as Louisiana-based cop show True Detective, while Tyler's presence ensured their sounds were cinematic in scope – most notably on Cupid Carries A Gun, the theme tune for TV drama Salem. Finally, rather than following the insular motto of his difficult past, Manson had artistically opened himself up to others.

"I think I became comfortable with collaborating, and not trying to be in control of everything," he considers. "I tried to be in control of everything all the time for years in a way that was not productive for me emotionally, and artistically I made things I was so proud of, but I wasn't very satisfied or happy at the end of it, and that's the whole point of it. Music is almost a spell or a conjuring, in the same way that sex is, and you're supposed to be happy when it's over, not unsatisfied or… If the world was a girl and this record was me fucking the world, I came to satisfy. No pun intended."

As for those romantic relationships he used to struggle with? He's guarded but content. "I feel very calm and anticipating, er, some sort of greater outcome for this new year…" he says, cryptically (though he's hinted in recent interviews that fatherhood could be on the cards).

Yet while 2014 saw Manson lay the groundwork for this year's accomplishments, it could have easily been an annus horribilis, as his mother passed away. Rather than incapacitating him, it proved to be a catalyst for change.

"It was a good year for me to sort of realise what's important in life," he recalls. "It was a shitty year in that everyone probably expected me to fall to pieces, but I really needed to be strong for my dad, and I wanted to make him proud, so I got on his favourite show, Sons Of Anarchy – *my* favourite show. And there are so many things that I set my eyes on and accomplished."

The singer frequently mentions SOA, and his affection for the cast is unmistakable. He even slips into Tommy Flanagan's (aka Chibs') Scottish accent, mimicking the elongated way he says "*iiiiiiii*Phone". It's another symptom of the shifts he's recently experienced in life.

"I've never really been comfortable making friends. I made a lot of new friends, and I never really had that growing up – the camaraderie," he admits. "Some of that came from working with the guys on Sons Of Anarchy, and some of it came from seeing Billy Corgan again after 15 years, and I actually forgot that he was the one who taught me how to play guitar – so, if you don't like my playing, then don't blame me (*laughs*)."

While Manson's unfailingly polite and charming, there's a sense that he'd rather be out there *creating* stuff, or hanging out with these new-found buds. Perhaps it's because he realises that life's short. Of the value of time. The importance of fun.

"I don't wanna die, but I'm not afraid of death," he emphasises. "And I live every day to the fullest as if there's no tomorrow. I always have. Sometimes I think I wasn't enjoying myself, but now I think you could make a simple comparison to something modern, like Twitter. If you have only so many letters to put into a sentence, don't spend half of them being angry. Or if you want to make it into a very specific situation, don't spend half of your day not being happy. Spend it doing something that makes you happy – even if being pissed off makes you happy. Just do whatever you gotta do that day, so when you go to bed, there's no black cloud over your head. And that rhymed (*laughs*)."

The God Of Fuck? Right now, Marilyn Manson is more like The God Of Not Giving A Fuck – or, to 'specify more specifically', The God Of Focusing On The Things He Gives A Fuck About. And it's fucking good to have him back.

THE PALE EMPEROR IS OUT NOW THROUGH COOKING VINYL. MARILYN MANSON PLAYS DOWNLOAD THIS JUNE – SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFORMATION

THE EMPEROR'S NEW TUNES

MANSON EXPLAINS HIS THREE FAVOURITE PALE EMPEROR TRACKS

THIRD DAY OF A SEVEN DAY BINGE

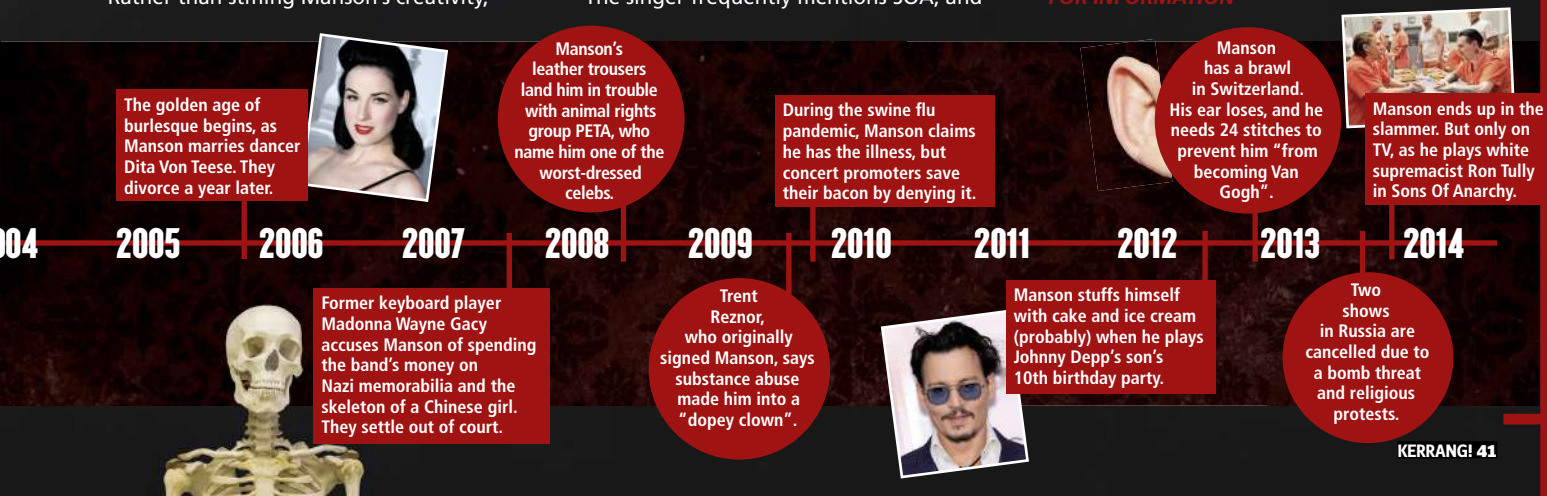
"Third Day… could be taken in a literal sense or a Biblical sense. I think the only part of it that was based upon any experience that happened to me the day that I wrote it was probably the chorus. I think the song was also, in my head, playing off my upbringing with God and seven and the third day, and all of those things."

THE MEPHISTOPHELES OF LOS ANGELES

"The record has so much of the Faustian story in it, about me selling my soul to be a rockstar, and paying it back with this record. It also poses the question, 'Is Los Angeles Mephistopheles?' [the servant figure in German legend Faust]. Do you sell your soul when you move to Hollywood?"

ODDS OF EVEN

"There's a predominance of wild coyotes that run in packs in the Hollywood Hills, and [one day] I heard they were howling. I recorded it with my iPhone out of the window, and walked back in the [studio] and said, 'I have an idea for what I want to end the record with…'"



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE FIRST ANNUAL...

ROCK OSK!ARS

With your special host...

ALEX GASKARTH!

IT'S AWARDS SEASON IN TINSELTOWN THIS WEEK, SO IT SEEMED FITTING THAT WE LAUNCH THE FIRST-EVER OSK!ARS, RECOGNISING THE STELLAR SCREEN WORK OF ROCKSTARS. AND WITH ALL TIME LOW MAKING THEIR CINEMATIC DEBUT IN NEW MOVIE FAN GIRL LATER THIS YEAR, WHO BETTER TO HOST PROCEEDINGS? SO, IF YOU COULD ALL PLEASE BE SEATED, WE SHALL BEGIN...

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA **PHOTOS:** DAVE WILLIS **ADDITIONAL WORDS:** IAN WINWOOD

BEST TIRADE

WINNER: LARS ULRICH
SOME KIND OF MONSTER (2004)

It's the closest heavy metal has come to Big Brother in terms of car-crash viewing. The staggeringly good Some Kind Of Monster follows Metallica as they attempt to sail through the shark-infested waters of communication breakdown, alcohol abuse, creative disorder and being one man down. The most memorable scene sees drummer Lars Ulrich exploding into an emotionally charged rant at frontman James Hetfield, with the sticksman ending up inches from Papa Het's nose screaming, 'Fuuuuuck!' It proved to be worth it, though, as the pep-talk helped yield results in the shape of St. Anger! Oh…

PHIL TOWLE, METALLICA'S PERFORMANCE COACH IN SOME KIND OF MONSTER, SAYS... "I was scared because, without question, it was a pivotal moment. That could so easily have been the point where James said, 'That's it, this [band] is over.' That was Lars' first opportunity to share with James directly just how angry he was, and about lots of things. It was a breaking point and a breaking-through point. It was one of those moments in life where you have to trust the process."

MOST UNFORTUNATE MAN IN MOVIES

WINNER: JARED LETO

Whether he's shooting up 'til his arm needs lobbing off in Requiem For A Dream, or getting axed up by American Psycho Christian Bale, Academy Award Winner ® Jared Leto is virtually guaranteed to have a *really* shit time in movies. He's taken a battering in Fight Club, got shot in the head in Panic Room, and died following a battle with AIDS in Dallas Buyers Club. Even 2012's Artifact saw 30STM fight a $30 million lawsuit. This award must be some consolation, though. Right?

BEST DEATH SCENE

WINNER: CHESTER BENNINGTON
SAW 3D: THE FINAL CHAPTER (2010)

It's not every day you see a topless Chester Bennington superglued to the front seat of a car with just 30 seconds to peel his skin off before it accelerates to rip one guy's arms off, crush his on-screen girlfriend's skull and run over some other poor bastard in the way. Chester's real-life wife, Talinda, nearly chundered her guts out after watching it. Excellent work, our Ches!

MOST INFORMATIVE NONDOCUMENTARY APPEARANCE

WINNER: ALICE COOPER
WAYNE'S WORLD (1992)

Hands up if you didn't know a damn thing about Milwaukee until you saw Coop in Wayne's World? The legendary metal morons Wayne and Garth invade Alice Cooper's dressing room to declare "how much we really enjoyed the show", clarifying "we're not mental or anything, so don't be afraid". Perfectly normal behaviour, then. Alice teaches the dynamic duo that Milwaukee is actually derived from an Indian name "pronounced *mill-e-wah-que*, which is Algonquin for The Good Land." After an invite to stick around for a bit longer, the pair are compelled to kneel before the shock-rock god, crying, "We're not worthy!" Come on, you would have done it, too!

HI, ALICE! SO, HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR ABOUT WAYNE'S WORLD?
ALICE COOPER: "Well, we watched Wayne's World on Saturday Night Live [the U.S. sketch show that first birthed Wayne and Garth] every week! Mike [Myers, Wayne] and Dana [Carvey, Garth] were new comedians who had been coming up with all these great characters. Everyone could relate to Wayne's World. For people in the Midwest, our basements were our rock dungeons, so we saw it as reality!"

WHAT WAS IT LIKE BEING ON THE SET?
"At first I thought I was just doing the music performance. But then Mike said, 'You're an actor, you can handle some dialogue, right?' and I was like, 'Yeah!' Then he told me the shoot was in 15 minutes. So, I just had to riff it! Mike and Dana were doing everything they could to make me laugh. They had this outtake reel going and they wanted me to blow up. So I found a spot between them and just stared at it. The outtakes of them doing 'We're not worthy!' went on for about five minutes and it got *vile* (*laughs*)!"

DID YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MIKE?
"We're still the best of friends, but it actually took me five or six times to meet the *real* Mike Myers. Before that, I'd just been meeting his characters! Then he felt comfortable enough to let me in and meet Michael. He goes to Maui, Hawaii, and stays at my manager Shep Gordon's house. And of course we're there all the time, plus we see him in New York, too. You can see there are always things clicking his brain. He's very, very clever."

WAS THERE EVEN THE FAINTEST CLUE THAT WAYNE'S WORLD WOULD GO ON TO BE SUCH A CULT HIT?
"We didn't realise it would make more money than Batman [Returns]! It was filmed phenomenally well for a low-budget film. It just goes to show how clever little movies can be!"

MOST OUT-OF-PLACE APPEARANCE

WINNER: ANTHRAX
CALENDAR GIRLS (2003)

A special thanks is owed to thrash legends Anthrax for making Mother's Day that bit more bearable. You're sat there nodding along (but secretly trying not to fall asleep) to this mum-com as Helen Mirren and her mates, flying in the face of a combined age in the region of 700, decide to make a nudey calendar. But, against all odds, the venture is a bona-fide success and the gals find themselves at the same swanky LA hotel as Scott Ian, Frank Bello and John Bush. And, more surprisingly, the Anthrax members fully endorse the calendar, gushing, "We're really impressed with what you're doing!" Sadly, the feeling is not mutual, and the lads learn that the ladies don't have the foggiest who *they* are. Bless.

"I WAS NERDING OUT OVER HELEN MIRREN!"
SCOTT IAN

ALRIGHT, SCOTT! HOW THE HELL DID YOU END UP IN CALENDAR GIRLS?
SCOTT IAN: "Our manager got a call from the film's director [Nigel Cole] asking if we'd be interested in doing a cameo. There was a scene where the ladies were supposed to be hanging out at a hotel pool in Hollywood and they would meet a metal band… Something that was completely opposite to who they were. And that was us!"

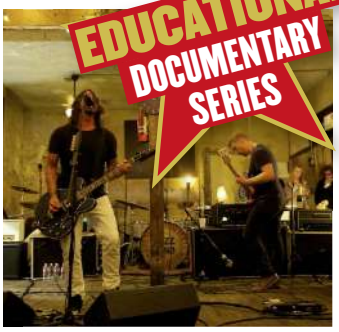
WAS IT FUN ON SET, OR DID YOU FEEL A BIT OUT OF PLACE?
"Everyone was really nice to us. And someone – who shall remain nameless – even asked us if we could get them weed. Of course we could!"

WHAT WAS HELEN MIRREN LIKE TO WORK WITH? DID YOU TRY TO KEEP IN TOUCH?
"What attracted us to doing the scene in the first place *was* Helen. 'Nuff said! She was really nice to us and I was nerding out over her. It was like, 'I am in a movie with *Helen Mirren* – how the fuck did that happen?' But no, we didn't keep in touch!"

WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS WHEN YOU SAW THE FINAL FILM?
"I didn't know the story of these women [apart from the pool scene], and when I saw it, I liked the movie. I haven't seen it in a few years, but people come up to me all the time and tell me they just saw me in it!"

AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, IF YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE A NUDEY CALENDAR WITH ALL YOUR MATES, WHAT MONTH WOULD YOU BE?
"That would have to be December. That's my birthday month!"

MOST EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTARY SERIES



WINNER: FOO FIGHTERS
SONIC HIGHWAYS (2014)

Dave Grohl takes us on the *ultimate* musical journey as his band travel the States in search of inspiration over their self-confessed "love letter to the history of American music". Not only do you get to see the Foos penning each track on Sonic Highways, but you also learn about the visionaries that built the scene in each city, as guests such as Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick, ZZ Top beardyman Billy Gibbons, Dolly Parton and some dude called Barack Obama are roped in.

BEST ONSCREEN MOSH-PIT

WINNER: CANNIBAL CORPSE
ACE VENTURA: PET DETECTIVE (1994)

When it comes to death metal invading people in the safety of their living rooms, you'd be hard pressed to find a more 'Fuck yeah!' moment than Jim Carrey walking into a Cannibal Corpse gig. It's probably the only time Jim Carrey has and ever will find himself in a mosh-pit, according to his daughter's ex-husband, Alex Santana. The Blood Money frontman reported "for the record, Jim hates death metal". Want us to make you a mix, Jim?

BEST ONE-LINER

THE BEST BARBS FIRED OFF BY – OR AT – ROCK'S GREAT AND GOOD…

WINNER
Get Him To The Greek (2010)

"Why don't you go and sue Napster, you little Danish twat!"

Russell Brand cuts Lars Ulrich down to size after learning the wee Dane was bedding his ex in this comedy classic.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

"I was editor of the school magazine!"

Airheads (1994)

Lemmy 'fesses up to his nerdy past in this 1994 Brendan Fraser cult ace. You can have a job at K! any time you want, Lem.

"Houston, we have a problem"

American Pie (1999)

Mark Hoppus hits the nail on the head after teen Jim has bedroom problems in front of a webcam watched by blink-182.

"Thank you for joining me... in Hell!"

Bikini Bandits (2002)

The Bikini Bandits wake up dead and find themselves taken to Hell, where Tool frontman Maynard James Keenan awaits… as Satan!

"What a shithead"

Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991)

Ex-Faith No More axeman Jim Martin delivers this epic one-liner in a movie that also features a pre-fame Brad Delson of Linkin Park.

ROCK OSK!ARS

BEST BACKSTAGE DEBAUCHERY

WINNER: PANTERA
3 VULGAR VIDEOS FROM HELL (1999)

Way before the likes of Jackass were sizzling their balls with crème brûlée torches, these Texan metal legends were showing everyone how you *really* kill time between shows on these videos. Setting fire to roadies? Check! Smashing up rooms? Why not! Pissing off redneck Christians? You got it! It's a wonder they got anything else done, really.

MOST REVELATORY INSIGHT

WINNER: KURT COBAIN: MONTAGE OF HECK (2015)

The more a story gets told, the harder it becomes to tell it *well*. And despite there being plenty of books and documentaries made on the Nirvana frontman's life, Montage Of Heck takes us through his journey of dejection and disaffection, which Kurt himself narrates through sacred recordings kept by the Cobain family. Directed by Brett Morgen and set for official release in May, this may very well be the closest to understanding the inner thoughts of a brilliantly talented musician who, let's not forget, was also a loving husband and father. Be warned, however: you may need the Kleenex ready, as the grunge icon's existence becomes shrouded in darkness and his star begins to fade.

MOST INCREDIBLE STORY

WINNER: LAMB OF GOD
AS THE PALACES BURN (2014)

What began as a simple tour documentary exploring metal's worldwide reach soon took a gut-wrenching twist. As The Palaces Burn follows Lamb Of God and Randy Blythe during the frontman's fight against murder charges in the Czech Republic, in a sobering, highly emotional movie that even the most creative of scriptwriters couldn't pen.

BEST PSYCH-UP SPEECH

WINNER: HENRY ROLLINS
JACK FROST (1998)

If Henry Rollins turned up to your office every morning to deliver a motivational speech, you would be guaranteed to be at least 30 times more productive. That's, like, a *real* scientific fact. When he appears in Jack Frost as an overenthusiastic sports dad/coach attempting to get team spirits high and blood pumping, he screams, "I WANT YOU TO GO OUT THERE AND WIPE THE ICE WITH THEIR FILTHY BUTTS!" Alright, Mr Rollins, whatever you say!

MOST STARS KILLED IN ONE MOVIE

WINNER: THE 2004 WARPED TOUR
PUNK ROCK HOLOCAUST 2 (2008)

Ever wondered what would happen if all the bands on Warped Tour got together for a comedy slasher about them being brutally murdered? Well, that's exactly what they did for Doug Sakmann's lolzy Punk Rock Holocaust films. This sequel even sees MCR's Frank Iero and Ray Toro getting their heads caved in by a decapitated zombie executioner searching for his missing noggin. Obviously.

AWARD FOR BEST AND WORST HAIRCUT

WINNER: ANTHONY KIEDIS
POINT BREAK (1991)

On one hand, it's a staggeringly audacious barnet to be sporting around town. On the other, you'd have to be a little bit loco to even consider it. The Red Hot Chili Pepper, then, picks up two gongs for his hairy role in this surfer crime-flick – one for each little girl's pigtail. Nice pout, too.

BEST CAMEO

BLINK AND YOU'LL MISS THESE SPEEDIEST OF STAR TURNS...

WINNER
OZZY OSBOURNE for Little Nicky (2000)

In a moment that had us jumping on the sofa in joy, The Prince Of Darkness emerges from smoke cackling like a loon, before munching the head off a satanic bat.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

DAVE GROHL for The Muppets (2011)

Ever itching to build on a résumé that includes Nirvana, Foos and Them Crooked Vultures, the Grohlmeister also signed up to join Fozzie Bear's band, The Moopets.

FLEA for Back To The Future Part II (1989) and Part III (1990)

The RHCP bassist loves a good cameo, popping up, going, er, back to Back To The Future on two occasions, portraying an old man and a truck-driving bully.

BILLY IDOL for The Wedding Singer (1998)

Which rockstar would you want to find on your plane as you try to win back the love of your life from dickhead businessman Glenn Guglia? Billy Idol, that's who.

GWAR for Empire Records (1995)

Joining GWAR on guitar? Pretty cool. Being eaten by an alien? Not so much. Record store clerk Mark should probably lay off the drugs…

I'm Okay (I Promise)

THEIR 5K-RATED NEW ALBUM, EVERYTHING IS FINE, IS THE TOAST OF BRITISH ROCK. BUT, AS PAUL ASTICK EXPLAINS, HAWK EYES' FIGHT IS ONE THAT'S LEFT ITS SHARE OF BRUISES...

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS PHOTOS: TOM MARTIN

Spurn Point is a narrow strand of shingle and sand held together by clumps of spiky Marram Grass and sea-buckthorn shrubs. Extending more than three miles into the North Sea and surmounted with the desolate shell of a disused lighthouse, it's one of the bleakest, most isolated spots in the British Isles. Had you braved the weather-beaten paths at certain points over the past couple of years, you might well have come across a solitary figure hunched against the bracing wind. This would have been Hawk Eyes frontman Paul Astick, battling a severe and extended bout of writer's block.

"I was trying to open the floodgates," he recalls. "Stuck in the middle of the country in Leeds, you start to feel claustrophobic. I used those trips to try to get some space, away from other people. At the sea, the pressure's off. It allows you to think more clearly."

With Hawk Eyes, Paul makes a big noise, lobbing out mangled riffs that explode like fragmentation grenades and alternately howling and crooning words that often seem packed with darkness and paranoia but which remain intentionally oblique. Off-duty, he's quiet and wryly self-deprecating. For a frontman whose band can stand toe-to-toe with any other on the stage, away from it, Paul is the antithesis of a traditional, towering 'rockstar'. He also weighs his words carefully, which, it transpires, is one of the reasons the band's new album, the brilliant, 5K-rated Everything Is Fine, had such a long and difficult gestation.

"I'm always very wary of what I say, in interviews, to people at gigs and especially in the things I record that are intended to be repeated forever," he admits. "I know people will read into them in certain ways and perhaps not in the way I intended. It's a constant battle for me to create a mood or a sentiment.

"I second guess a lot that people will infer the wrong thing from what I'm writing, so it takes me a long time to write lyrics. There are times I'll write reactively to situations, and that can be cathartic, but hopefully the album is ambiguous enough that nobody can read into it one way or another," he finishes with a chuckle.

Indeed, the album's only unambiguous track is The Ballad Of Michael McGrue, which Paul describes as the only song he's ever written that's pure storytelling. A slice of tragic family history, it deals with the ship his great-grandfather captained and its sinking in Dublin Bay.

As for the rest of the album and Hawk Eyes in general, well... *is* everything fine?

"It's better than I expected it to be. It was a long time in the making and we had a few ups and downs along the way. It's about the cynical way we tell each other everything's fine all the time. It's neither good nor bad, it's just... fine."

Excuse us, we're late for the bus... (*From left*) Rob Stephens (guitar), Ryan Clark (bass), John Mackenzie (drums), Paul Astick (guitar/vocals)

"There are times I think, 'What are we doing wrong?'"
PAUL ASTICK

Paul Astick's cup, it seems, is as empty as it is full. Paul points to the geographically scattered nature of a band who once all lived under the same roof as a contributing factor in the two-and-half-year slog writing their third album, yet equally points out that "it's a process that works for us because you're more focused when you do meet up and it gives you a chance to reflect on what you've done. It's a double-edged sword."

This constant swing between the positive and the negative extends to the band's whole career. Hawk Eyes have consistently garnered critical acclaim, and with good reason. They've been one of the most thrilling bands to have emerged from the UK underground in recent times and Everything Is Fine – their second album in a row to be given a 5K nod – is already an early contender for album of the year. At the same time, they are, as Paul has stated, still having to hold down day jobs ("I could tell you what I do, but then I'd have to kill you," the singer laughs).

Surely it must be frustrating to see bands with less talent having more commercial success?

"The acclaim we've had in the past four years has been incredible, and there are times when I think, 'What are we doing wrong, why isn't this working?'" Paul nods. "But we believe in this music and I'm proud of our body of work. We threw ourselves into this project because we were misfits. We looked a bit gawky, we were nerds and we've never ridden a trend. The fact that we can make music independently and get critical acclaim for it is the most punk thing we can do. And we're going to keep doing it."

So, with the album finally out and the plaudits still coming, are you feeling positive about the rest of 2015?

"We're as positive as Hawk Eyes ever gets," the singer says with a smile. "We feel fine about the future and I'm sure everyone else does, too."

You speak for yourself, mate. From where we're sitting, the future of British rock looks more fantastic than fine. And Hawk Eyes – for all their scrapping – are at the forefront of it.

EVERYTHING IS FINE IS OUT NOW VIA RED VOLE

Everything Louder Than Everything Else!

HAWK EYES ARE MASTERS OF A GOOD RIFF – BUT WHAT ARE PAUL'S FAVOURITE-EVER GUITAR LICKS?

Melvins

THE BIT

"It rings out like a siren at the beginning of the Stag album, telling you that something is coming. It has this ominous swell, then explodes and drags you along. It says, 'You're coming with me!'"

FIND IT: STAG (1996)

Cursed

HEAD OF THE BAPTIST

"The way Cursed get those chunky, meaty, dark, dark sounds using Telecasters and old amps and all the wrong equipment is pretty much what we try to do!"

FIND IT: TWO (2005)

Smashing Pumpkins

CHERUB ROCK

"When I first heard Cherub Rock, I didn't know you could do *that* with a guitar. That riff really switched me onto distorted guitars. The way Billy Corgan makes it sing, it's almost symphonic."

FIND IT: SIAMESE DREAM (1993)

Scissorfight

ACID FOR BLOOD

"This album-opener is a really good example of how you set your stall out on song one. The record falls into place on the back of that riff and it's a really good battle cry."

FIND IT: MANTRAPPING FOR SPORT AND PROFIT (2001)

Shellac

A MINUTE

"I'd heard Nirvana and the Pumpkins, but then there was this guitar music that could be played with no distortion but still sound heavy. The crispness of it stuck with me. It's a really nice mechanical, syncopated riff."

FIND IT: AT ACTION PARK (1994)

Hawk Eyes

Paul instantly regretted trying to do his Big Shop in Tesco on Black Friday

LIVES

WE'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER VENUE!

KERRANG! TOUR 2015

KKKKK = CLASSIC KKKK = EXCELLENT KKK = GOOD KK = AVERAGE K = POOR

LINE-UP: DON BROCO, WE ARE THE IN CROWD, YOUNG GUNS, BURY TOMORROW, BEARTOOTH

O2 GUILDHALL, SOUTHAMPTON. 09.02.15

KKKKK

DON BROCO TAKE A BITE OUT OF THE ANNUAL K! BASH. YEAH MAN!

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE PHOTOS: IAN COLLINS

AS YOU can see from its artwork over the last couple of years (2014: dinosaur, 2015: shark), the Kerrang! Tour is an ever-evolving beast. So, while last year's festivities showed us all just what happens when you combine the powers of Limp Bizkit and a goblin, this year presents a snapshot of the world's hottest bands *right now*, before they chomp their way to the top of the food chain. And with previous K! Tour alumni including Biffy Clyro, Bullet For My Valentine and Bring Me The Horizon, you could say we've got an eye for this stuff.

It's one that's certainly been caught by openers Beartooth, thanks to the intensity demonstrated by Dead, although the band's lynchpin, Caleb Shomo, says his band's riotous explosion of a set is really being done to warm up Southampton for its "hometown boys". That'd be Bury Tomorrow, who seem determined to level the city that bore them with the likes of An Honourable Reign, although it's a slightly less ambitious effort than Dani Winter-Bates' promise to high-five *everyone* in the venue.

Equally challenging is trying to pack special guests Young Guns' trademark magic into a three-song cameo. It's a task they're equal to, though, stealing the limelight with two new songs (I Want Out, Speaking In Tongues) and, of course, the almighty Bones. After that skeletal set time, We Are The In Crowd can flex their muscles – and Tay Jardine isn't letting this crowd avoid doing their bit. "That doesn't sound like any kind of energy I've ever heard," she chastises, before Rumor Mill gets the blood pumping, as Southampton almost bounces itself into the sea to its unstoppable beat.

Nothing gets you going quite like a Thug Workout, though, which arrives courtesy of headliners Don Broco. With this tour doubling as a springboard for their forthcoming second album, it's great to hear opening powerhouse Money Power Fame fitting so snugly alongside the call and response of Yeah Man ("You sound beautiful," beams frontman Rob Damiani) and Priorities (yes, complete with 'The Walk'). In fact, the only person working as hard as the Don Broco boys at this point is Dani Winter-Bates, who, true to his word, is *still* high-fiving fans at the merch table.

Another monster instalment for the K! Tour, then. Question is: what shape will this beast take next year?

"Dear Lord, please grant me a comb…"

5 MINUTES WITH…

ROB DAMIANI

(DON BROCO, *VOCALS*)

ROB! HOW'S YOUR KERRANG! TOUR BEEN?

"Best. Tour. Ever. Norwich was a great start, and quite daunting as Simon [Delaney, guitar] went to uni there, and we used to see a lot of shows at the UEA. Every show is taking things up another level, though."

YOU'VE TREATED US TO SOME NEW SONGS, TOO…

"Yeah! We haven't played in ages, so to get back and launch new music has been great. We've been playing stuff off Priorities for three years now, which feels unbelievable, and although we're only playing a couple of new songs, it means we can freshen up the set a little bit."

Mate, someone's nicked your ladder

"Oh, just kick me while I'm trying to play, that's fine"

Right then, who's got one thumb and sings in Beartooth? THIS GUY!

5 MINUTES WITH…

CALEB SHOMO

(BEARTOOTH, *VOCALS*)

YOU'RE SHARING A TOUR BUS WITH BURY TOMORROW. FUN?

"Brandon [Mullins], our drummer, was naked within the first four hours of being on the tour bus, running around and yelling. There's been a lot of being loud and obnoxious, and just general nonsense going on…"

5 MINUTES WITH…

TAY JARDINE

(WE ARE THE IN CROWD, *VOCALS*)

HOW HAS THE TOUR BEEN SO FAR?

"It's been really cool! The last time we were here was at Slam Dunk Festival, so it's great to be on tour here. People have been saying how cold it is here, but it's *way* colder in New York right now. This feels like it's a tropical vacation in comparison!"

WE HEAR YOU'RE MAKING SOME NEW BUDDIES ON TOUR?

"Well, we didn't know Bury Tomorrow before, but they're the nicest guys. I was a little nervous about playing with some bands that are musically different – I mean, those guys are pretty heavy – but I've been surprised just how well it's all working together."

HOW HAVE THE CROWDS BEEN?

"They've been amazing! The other thing about the diversity of the bands playing is that you've got a lot of different sets of fans out there watching you. Everyone is clearly very open-minded, and these crowds are *so* fired up!"

Tay showed off her new invisible iPhone

Only one person got the hat memo

5 MINUTES WITH...

GUSTAV WOOD

(YOUNG GUNS, *VOCALS*)

YOU'VE PLAYED THE K! TOUR BEFORE IN 2010, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY A FAN...

"The diversity of the line-ups is one of the best things about the Kerrang! Tour. It's important to have breadth, as these days people are far less likely to plough the same furrow with music."

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE MOMENT TONIGHT?

"What you learn about playing live is that it's not the little things that go wrong that makes the show, it's the crowd. So, I can't tell you how good the first minute of the first song felt!"

Sod a tie, Gustav can't even button his shirt properly

"Jesus! Look at that caption box!"

5 MINUTES WITH...

DANI WINTER-BATES

(BURY TOMORROW, *VOCALS*)

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE OTHER BANDS?

"This is probably the first tour where we've known 90 per cent of the bands on it. The only band we didn't know were We Are The In Crowd, and they're very nice. I'm very good friends with Caleb from Beartooth, he's actually married to one of my very good friends."

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MEMORABLE MOMENTS SO FAR?

"Beartooth are crazy and awesome, and love a good party. It's trouble when you mix two bands that like drinking and having a good time together. The show in Leeds was a big night out for us. Our tour bus left our guitarist Daws [Kristan Dawson] behind, but luckily Don Broco picked him up!"

K!'s entry into the Six Nations seemed better on paper

THE AFGHAN WHIGS

KOKO, LONDON. 04.02.15

KKKKK

SEX, WHIGS AND ROCK'N'ROLL HIT CAMDEN TOWN

INSIDE KOKO'S red walls, the presence of a mirror ball above the crowd and a violin and cello onstage might seem out of place. However, dark, alt.rock gentlemen The Afghan Whigs always were a class act, and as a mournful violin solo leads into Parked Outside's mammoth stride before the disco stomp of Somethin' Hot, it all makes sense. After the best part of a year on tour, The Whigs are a lean, mean machine, and ultra-cool frontman Greg Dulli's voice seems bigger than these walls can hold, moving effortlessly from impassioned yells to intimate croon. Heavy and seductive at the same time, like a rhino mounting a lorry, back-catalogue faves like Gentleman have lost none of their libidinous edge and groove comfortably next to songs from last year's Do To The Beast, as well as some sneaky covers of The Beatles, The Police, Jeff Buckley and a brief lounge version of Miles Iz Ded. After a rare outing of Teenage Wristband and a spectacular Faded brings the night to an emotional close, Greg grins and takes a bow. Still a gentleman, after all these years.

JAMES MACKINNON

SICK OF IT ALL

UNDERWORLD, LONDON. 06.02.15

KKK

NEW YORK HARDCORE KINGS RATTLE THE CAPITAL. AGAIN

HALFWAY THROUGH the first gig of a two-night stand in Camden's most famous underground punk venue, Sick Of It All frontman Lou Koller can't believe what he's hearing. "You've *never* been to a Sick Of It All show before?" he laughs in disbelief that there are folks here tonight who have somehow never had the pleasure. "Where have you been – prison?!" It's a fair question. The Queens, New York, natives have done 29 years of hard time touring and recording 11 studio albums. There's not been many opportunities *not* to see them. People might be here for the classics, but the band pepper their 65-minute set with a mix of old and new to good effect. Part party atmosphere, part insurrection, these songs still rush and pummel, led by Lou's liquid gravel vocals and his brother guitarist Pete bouncing back and forth behind him. Step Down, Scratch The Surface and Us Vs Them are among the crowd-pleasers set off like fireworks, proof that you're never too old or it's never too late to make music that literally moves people. Check Sick Of It All out if you somehow haven't yet – newcomers and ex-cons all welcome.

ALISTAIR LAWRENCE

Finally, one fan caught that bloody fly

Fingerless oven gloves: useless

Even poison gas can't stop The Used

Landscapes: "Wait, this isn't the gents!"

THE USED

PLUS: LANDSCAPES, DECADE

ROCK CITY, NOTTINGHAM. 07.02.15

KKKK

HANG UP THE PHONE! ALT.ROCKERS' NOISY REVOLUTION HITS THE MIDLANDS

WORDS: STEVE BEEBEE PHOTOS: CHRIS CASEY

"FEEL FREE to put your phone away and make an actual memory." Bert McCracken, frontman with The Used, smiles at the audience as he reminds us that it's better to live life in the moment than squint at it constantly through a four-inch screen. Because, these days, Bert's all about making the best of life. Not only did last year's Imaginary Enemy album take his band to new artistic heights, but Bert himself is a changed man. He still flies around the stage like a demented moth, drawn to the flame of his band's manic music, but he's lost weight, looks healthy, and is no longer the feisty but clearly troubled artist of yore. These are good days for The Used.

The times aren't bad for Decade, either, seemingly bagging every opening slot going, and always winning friends with their user-friendly, punky rock. It's trickier for Landscapes. On a different bill, they'd slay, but tonight they're dogged by a muddy PA and an audience that doesn't quite understand them or their gruelling hardcore punk.

The Used, however, have never looked more alive or sounded more vivacious, even with Justin Shekoski from Saosin having to step in for guitarist Quinn Allman at the eleventh hour (and, we might add, doing a sterling job filling the man's temporarily vacant boots). And where previously Used gigs were all about catharsis, it's now all about interactive fun – great songs played to an audience that has grown up and learned to love each note. Between I Caught Fire and The Taste Of Ink, one lucky fan is even invited onstage, and she gets to stay there not just for one song, but for the remainder of the set. Revolution, from the new album, is a hook-heavy killer, and it's more than just talk. For The Used, revolution is happening now.

Bert's left arm: continued overleaf

5 MINUTES WITH... BERT MCCRACKEN

(THE USED, *VOCALS*)

GOOD TO BE ON A HEADLINE TOUR IN THE UK AGAIN? IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS...

"It's been *so* long. We did festivals and toured with other bands, but in a way that doesn't count. It's always better to play your own shows. I prefer the more intimate, sweaty venues. What we're doing now is how it was always meant to be, and that's always more memorable."

DO YOU GET THE IMPRESSION THAT FANS HAVE LITERALLY GROWN UP WITH YOUR MUSIC?

"We try to be very conscious of that – the bands I grew up listening to are all part of the story of my childhood and younger years. Any association with songs can be very impactful throughout your life. The first couple of records were really all about me and my world, but now it's about the world that my daughter's gonna grow up in."

HOW COME QUINN ISN'T WITH YOU RIGHT NOW?

"He just needs some time off. He's taking a break and Justin [Shekoski] from Saosin has stepped in. The transition has actually been quite easy, he's settled in very well."

WOLF

PLUS: PRIMITAI

AUDIO, GLASGOW. 06.02.15

KKKK

SWEDISH METALLERS TAKE A BITE OUT OF GLASGOW

"REAL METAL for true bastards!" As mercilessly zero-bullshit slogans go, Wolf's lands right on the nose. Fortunately, the rough-riding Swedes have the teeth to bring it snarling to life. Men who've put their brand to both absinthe (alcohol content: 66.6 per cent) and hot sauce, it's unsurprising that they've already bottled the essence of heavy metal. Opening bruisers Primitai worship at a similar altar. Channelling heavyweights like Saxon and Grand Magus, they might be light on original ideas but it's heavy just about everywhere else. Doing absolutely nothing to lighten the load, Wolf give chase with 90 minutes of ear-clattering steel. Surprisingly dynamic fresh cut Skeleton Woman and the shadowy swing of Voodoo hint at understatement, but as Friday-night pints take hold, the show bursts into life. A thumping Hail Caesar sees as much beer spilled as swallowed. Skull Crusher bludgeons out a canyon-like groove. And by neck-rending closer Killing Floor, the punter-pack aren't just barking their approval of Wolf – they're howling.

SAM LAW

PRIMORDIAL

PLUS: WINTERFYLLETH, PORTRAIT, MALTHUSIAN

O2 ACADEMY, ISLINGTON. 07.02.15

KKKK

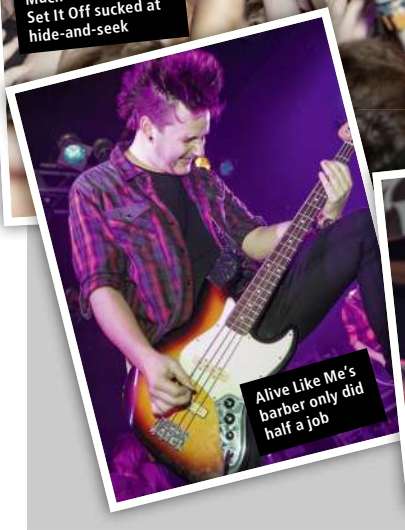
A METAL KO IN LONDON. WIMPS NOT WELCOME

TONIGHT THERE is no posing. No wimping around. And absolutely no place for the words 'nu' or 'core'. This is a night for heavy metal at its fightiest and most proudly confrontational. Take openers Malthusian, whose dark death metal racket has an unstoppable force behind it as though it were being shot from a tank. Or how about Sweden's Portrait, for whom there are not enough spikes, studs and leather waistcoats in the world. Or half-inched Judas Priest and Mercyful Fate riffs. And if their histrionics are a bit too theatrical, there's Winterfylleth, who look normal enough with their black T-shirts and short hair, but actually hold some of the most vast and ambitious music in British black metal in their hands. And then there's Primordial, who are all of the above. Frontman AA Nemtheanga looks like a zombie soldier, has the belligerent demeanor of a street thug, and the metal heart of Rob Halford. And tonight, his band are unstoppable, with bloody-knuckled anthems like As Rome Burns and No Grave Deep Enough rivalling Maiden for sheer metallic force. Metal? Primordial bleed it.

NICK RUSKELL

Much as they tried, Set It Off sucked at hide-and-seek

David regretted keeping his mic and his glue in the same drawer



Alive Like Me's barber only did half a job

Dangerkids took their mini pool cue everywhere

5 MINUTES WITH...

DAVID ESCAMILLA

(CROWN THE EMPIRE, *VOCALS*)

THIS IS THE BIGGEST HEADLINE SHOW YOU'VE EVER PLAYED HERE. HOW DOES THAT FEEL?

"I was thinking that the entire time I was onstage! How incredible it is to be out here and have all these fans that have come out for us these past five times. The first show we played here was in front of maybe a hundred people. So, I love it – it looks like the word is spreading! The crowds were phenomenal out in Germany, but this just takes it to a whole new level!"

IS THERE A SENSE OF COMPETITION BETWEEN YOU AND CO-VOCALIST ANDY LEO ONSTAGE?

"I wouldn't say competition so much, more of a push. It's more like you're competing, but in a positive way. When you both have to sing and do the same stuff you learn from each other no matter what. But obviously, when you're having an off night it's great to have somebody else there who's just '*RAWR!*'"

YOUR SONGS FOCUS ON A POSTAPOCALYPTIC WORLD, HOW DO YOU THINK IT WILL ALL END? ZOMBIES?

"Honestly, I couldn't tell you. The reason we did it is because we didn't want to talk about the way society is so we thought, 'Fuck it! We're going to create our own world and create these songs throughout that world.' If I had to hazard a guess… I'd say a load of countries are going to bomb each other, it's all going to end in some nuclear fallout!"

CROWN THE EMPIRE

PLUS: SET IT OFF, DANGERKIDS, ALIVE LIKE ME

ELECTRIC BALLROOM, LONDON. 05.02.15

KKKK

THE EMPIRE CONTINUES TO EXPAND, AND CONQUERS LONDON WITH EASE

WORDS: JAMES MACKINNON PHOTOS: IAN COLLINS

'HOLD ON to hope, follow your dreams' – that's the message preached by each of tonight's earnest support acts. It might seem strange, then, that those atop the bill, Crown The Empire, deal in punishing metalcore set in a hopeless, Mad Max-style future. But their lofty ambitions and the way the Electric Ballroom damn-near explodes when the Texans arrive make them the walking affirmation of the power of that thinking. Crown The Empire's dreams may be haunted, but they know everything there is to know about keeping hope alive.

Kicking off the night with an angsty bang, Alive Like Me get the crowd moving with emotive pop-punk, and more synchronised headbanging and twirling than a Slipknot ballet. And while Dangerkids hail from sleepy Ohio, their set is anything but a snoozefest, showing their love with huge euphoric rock and heartfelt vocals.

The love-in continues as Set It Off lay into their unabashedly poppy, rock symphonies, with vocalist Cody Carson invading the crowd and leading them through infectious foot-stomper Why Worry. Feeling a bit cold over Fall Out Boy's last album? SIO have the answer to all your problems, and on any other bill, they'd take the crown.

CTE's walking cane: surprisingly tall

But, undoubtedly, the kings of tonight are Crown The Empire, whose mere presence makes the floor collapse into the biggest circle-pit of the night. The six-man runaway army whip up chaos with relentless executions of arena-ready anthems Initiation and Bloodline, dishing out drums and riffs with breakneck precision. Meanwhile, the epic Johnny Ringo trilogy showcases the palpable chemistry between vocalists Andy Leo and David Escamilla as they tear open their postapocalyptic operas (or postapoperas?).

Appropriately, the crowd party like it's the end of the world. And as the night draws to a triumphant close on a pummelling Makeshift Chemistry, you're left knowing there are certainly worse ways you could spend your last night on Earth.

REVIEWS

ROCKIN' REVIEWCCI SNEAKS!

KKKKK = CLASSIC **KKKK** = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD **KK** = AVERAGE **K** = POOR

FALLING IN REVERSE

JUST LIKE YOU
(EPITAPH)

KKK

WHY SO SERIOUS? RONNIE RADKE'S THIRD COMING DROPS THE SILLY, BUT STILL DROPS A BOMB. ISH

LOVE HIM or hate him – and much like Marmite, Manchester United and Top Gear, in his case there is no in-between – there's no denying that Ronnie Radke has, by his standards, been keeping something of a low profile as of late. Rewind a couple of years, and it didn't seem like a week went by without Ronnie (and do know this writer is channelling Louis Theroux in bumbling this utterance) '*ghost riding the whip*', cooking up a rap mixtape, or knocking his fans out with a lobbed micstand (or three). Then there was Fashionably Late. If debut album The Drug In Me Is You was 45 minutes of beating the very idea of humility to a pulp ('*Turning tragedy into melody, that's why they call me king of the music scene*' anyone?), then Falling In Reverse's second was… well, the worst album ever made / the best / a bit of both / the audio equivalent of a clown slipping on a banana skin… As the K! review said, *fuck knows.*

And so, as we said on the way in, by his standards, Just Like You – the return to action of Ronnie Radke and album number three in the Vegas band's discography – arrives into the world relatively free of bombast and hype. Last time around, he wore a blue suit, '*Rockin' Gucci sneaks*', prophesising about his revival of the scene. This time he's put out an album of songs.

OKAY, SO that's a slightly simplistic view – no album with a song called Sexy Drug on it is ever going to enter the world gracefully – but there are occasions (most notably opener Chemical Prisoner; closer Brother; the raw, rap-infused slow-burner Wait & See) where the principal learning by the end of the song is, 'Blimey, Ronnie Radke is a good songwriter, isn't he?'

This is most welcome. After all, the principal reason anyone has put up with Ronnie's shit is that the 31-year-old is obviously a really good songwriter. And one bursting with ideas, even if the edit key on the machine he spews them out of has sometimes been missing.

NO BULLSHIT: Just Like You is a good album, in that it contains many more good songs than bad ones (in fact, the only song which might be described as the latter is The Bitter End, resembling MCR's Teenagers if it had been covered by the cast of Glee rather than Sing). But then, since all of Falling In Reverse's massively-meta-recorded-output has been infused with the goo of Ronnie's personal life, this review has to do something of a job in exploring what his band's new record says about the author's life circa now. And this is where the disappointment creeps in. Because the truth is this; the rock scene contains many good songwriters, but it hosts only one Ronnie Radke, and we're not sure we're quite ready for the Ronnie Radke we can take home to meet our parents. There's a feeling prevalent throughout Just Like You (the title track of which pronounces, '*I am aware I am an asshole*', before essentially labouring the point that, '*Isn't everyone?*') that this is a collection of songs reined in, that have been written while being hyper-aware of being judged, that are scared of ridicule. '*I don't care about all of that, though*', continues Ronnie on the aforementioned title song, perhaps while drawing lines through all the silly, colourful, off-the-wall ideas that characterised his previous works. We think the dude doth protest too much. Frankly, we miss the Ronnie who treated the world like it was his own personal plaything. As accomplished as this version of him is, we hope his evil twin comes back for album number four.

DOWNLOAD: Chemical Prisoner, Brother.
FOR FANS OF: Escape The Fate, Black Veil Brides, Asking Alexandria.

JAMES MCMAHON

THE INSIDER
TALES FROM THE STUDIO...

RONNIE RADKE
(*VOCALS*)

SO, RONNIE, THE NEW ALBUM – HAPPY WITH IT?
"I know everybody always says this is their best album, but I truly believe this is the best album we have made. It's less overproduced, less layered, but it's gone back to a raw, more organic sound. It's like a mixture of our first album and some of the stuff I did with Escape The Fate. I think fans are going to love it."

THIS IS A STEP AWAY FROM FASHIONABLY LATE. EXPECTING SEVERE REACTIONS, RON?
"Anything that's new, people attack. When we released Fashionably Late, everybody talked shit, but then our shows doubled in size. Humans, we're all the same. We instantly judge, and it's not what we normally like, so we judge it negatively, but eventually we're going to like it because we like the songs."

YOU SEEM TO LIKE STIRRING THINGS UP...
"I'll never be boring. I don't like drama. Some people may beg to differ, but some people like me, some people hate me, but they are still coming to the shows and singing the songs. I have no idea what that says, but it's true."

HEAR THE WHOLE INTERVIEW WITH JOHNNY DOOM ONLY ON KERRANG! RADIO

OF MICE & MEN
RESTORING FORCE: FULL CIRCLE
(RISE)

KKKK

OM&M'S BIGGEST ALBUM GETS BIGGER

IT'S BECOME something of a custom to rerelease and reappraise a record when its authors reach a higher plane in their careers. In Of Mice & Men's case, that breakthrough was their arrival as an arena-worthy proposition (albeit as support for Linkin Park), and that record was Restoring Force – here beefed up with three additional tracks and an acoustic version of Feels Like Forever. These new songs are certainly worthy of investment. Broken Generation illustrates just why Austin Carlile and co have graduated to the big leagues, sporting the kind of grandstanding melodies enormodomes were commissioned for. Meanwhile, Something To Hide and Never Giving Up crystallise the sound of a band in a state of flux, midway between metalcore upstarts and refined world-beaters. Oh, and *nothing* says you've matured like an acoustic version of one of your songs. This pivotal album just got a whole lot more essential.

DOWNLOAD: Feels Like Forever, Broken Generation.

FOR FANS OF: Asking Alexandria, Bring Me The Horizon, Escape The Fate.

JAMES HICKIE

ALL THAT REMAINS
THE ORDER OF THINGS
(RAZOR & TIE)

KKK

MORE OF THE SAME FROM BOSTON METALCORE MOB

CLEARLY AWARE of the fact that they've perfected a winning formula, All That Remains waste no time unfurling the big riffs, melodic hooks and rat-a-tat drumming that's served them well on their previous six studio albums here. The Order Of Things might travel through a number of familiar metalcore checkpoints, but it rumbles along with conviction, spearheaded by radio-friendly opener This Probably Won't End Well. There's absolutely nothing new here, but, as ever, vocalist Phil Labonte – sort of a metalcore Chester Bennington – anchors these songs with a winning performance, ensuring All That Remains should stick around for a while yet.

DOWNLOAD: No Knock.

FOR FANS OF: Killswitch Engage, Stone Sour, Pantera.

ALISTAIR LAWRENCE

THE SANITY DAYS
EVIL BEYOND BELIEF
(CANDLELIGHT)

KKKK

A THRASHY BLAST FROM BRIT METAL'S HISTORY

REMEMBER A time when you could sing songs about battling evil demons with a straight face? The Sanity Days do, and this debut from former members of excellent '80s Brit thrashers Onslaught is crammed with all sorts of mythical lyrical nonsense. Fortunately, their righteous metal is up to the challenge, waging war with shredding licks sharper than a sabre and drums heavier than an iron maiden. Cue twisted Sabbathy jams, a tribute to Dio (Ruler Of Eternity) with soaring vocals to match, and, um, a rather creepy child monologue as an opener. Evil? Not beyond belief, but perfectly wicked stuff nonetheless.

DOWNLOAD: Charlie.

FOR FANS OF: Iron Maiden, Visigoth, Onslaught.

JAMES MACKINNON

BLACK STAR RIDERS
THE KILLER INSTINCT
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

KKK

THIN LIZZY OFFSHOOT SHOOTS OFF SECOND ALBUM

WHEN VETERAN guitarist Scott Gorham revived '70s Thin Lizzy, he understandably rejected the notion of recording new material without long-deceased mainman Phil Lynott. For this purpose, the current line-up became known as Black Star Riders, an outfit that successfully remains true to Lizzy's gritty, warrior-class spirit. Former Almighty frontman Ricky Warwick leads their charge, adding a much-needed snarl to Bullet Blues and Through The Motions. There's plenty of shirty, testosterone-fuelled mischief along with the contrastingly introspective Blindsided as balance. And while there's little of Phil's Celtic charm, this remains the work of a still-hungry band.

DOWNLOAD: Finest Hour.

FOR FANS OF: Thin Lizzy, The Darkness, Europe.

STEVE BEEBEE

THE KERRANG! STEREO

THE 10 NEW ROCK TRACKS MELTING OUR EARS!

1 SHIPS WRECK LEGEND OF THE SEAGULLMEN
Tool + Mastodon? *MasToolDon*!

2 ELAN NIGHTWISH
And lo, Nightwish return with another Oscar-worthy epic.

3 SOUND OF BLUE WINO & CONNY OCHS
"Mmmm, a bluesy, acoustic strum from doom metal's own riffmaster general."
NICK RUSKELL, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

4 BIG BAD WOLF IN THIS MOMENT
"What big riffs you have."
"All the better to rock you with."

5 THE REAL HIT THE LIGHTS
Coming up next from HTL, The Counterfeit. Maybe…

6 WEEPER BIG FIN
"It's bleak, it's barren and it's beautiful. So yeah, it's called Weeper for a reason!"
JOHN LONGBOTTOM, NEWS EDITOR / DIGITAL BADASS

7 SWING THE NOOSE 36 CRAZYFISTS
Swing your big, metal groove, more like. Massive.

8 OUT OF THE BLACK ROYAL BLOOD
Jimmy Page says they're groovy. Thus it is cast in stone.

9 NO CITIES TO LOVE SLEATER-KINNEY
"Dear this song,

I love you so much.

Yours forever,"
GEORGE GARNER, DEPUTY EDITOR

10 IF YOU EVER LEAVE ME, I WILL FIND YOU WILSON
Wilson Detective Agency, open for business…

ENFORCER

FROM BEYOND
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

KKKK

SWEDISH METAL REVIVALISTS PARTY LIKE IT'S 1984

HEY, ENFORCER, the '80s called. They want their artwork back. And their song titles. And their riffs. And pretty much everything else attached to this painstakingly retrofied slice of trad-metal cheese. But, naturally, there's still a whole shedload of fun to be had gouging at your air-guitar to The Banshee and Hell Will Follow. And the tempo-shifting Below The Slumber and epic Mask Of Red boast plenty of instrumental ambition, too. Sure, From Beyond is the type of record that'll offend every progressive bone in your body, but Enforcer understand that, now and again, the old ways are still the best.

DOWNLOAD: Destroyer.
FOR FANS OF: Saxon, Portrait.

SAM LAW

SCORPIONS

RETURN TO FOREVER
(SONY BMG)

KKK

FIFTY YEARS IN, THEY'VE STILL GOT A SHARP STING

BACK IN the mists of time, Hannover's Scorpions were one of the world's most loved rock acts. A major draw the planet over, this tightly trousered quintet rocked you like a hurricane while standing impervious to the musical winds of change to which other bands fell prey. Released in the year of their *50th* anniversary, Return To Forever is classic Scorps fare in being muscular rock that is not a good deal smarter than a rock. As ever, though, Scorpions' secret ingredient is that their music has a sense of class that, even in the hour of encroaching old age, remains present and correct.

DOWNLOAD: Rock My Car.
FOR FANS OF: Iron Maiden, Rival Sons, Steel Panther.

IAN WINWOOD

FORT HOPE

FORT HOPE
(LAB)

KKKK

EX-MY PASSION TRIO LEAVE THEIR PAST BEHIND ON KILLER NEW EP

A MILLISECOND of a listen to Fort Hope frontman Jonathan Gaskin's powerhouse vocals, and it's hard to believe he was just the drummer (and later guitarist) in his last band. That band was disco-rock quintet My Passion. And when they went down the plughole, like the remnants of the gold paint they used to smother themselves in, several of their members formed Fort Hope. And this seven-song EP sees them continue to rise from the ashes (or, perhaps, sewer) like a phoenix. In the three incredible stand-out tracks – Sick, Tears and Plans – they've owned everything they wrote in their last band. If there's more where this came from, there's *all* the hope in hell they'll be huge.

DOWNLOAD: Sick, Tears.
FOR FANS OF: Fall Out Boy, Don Broco, Young Guns.

JENNYFER J. WALKER

FUTURE USER

#STEROIDSORHEROIN
(MIDDLE RING PARTNERSHIP)

KKKK

RATM BASSIST DROPS BEATS, NOT BOMBS

WHILE WE'VE all been musing over what, if anything, is next for Rage Against The Machine, it appears bassist Tim Commerford has been a busy boy. No-one had the foggiest he was the masked singer/bassist in Future User, who'd released three online videos starring such sport champions as angry tennis man John McEnroe and heretic cyclist Lance Armstrong. As you do. Debut album #SteroidsOrHeroin is full of yet more surprises, fusing together *massive* hip-hop beats with heavy electronica in an adrenaline-fuelled orgy of punk rock

DARLIA

PETALS
(B-UNIQUE)

KKK

ONE MINI ALBUM, A WHOLE LOTTA '90S NOSTALGIA

DARLIA'S WHOLE thing is choruses. And judging from tunes like I've Never Been To Ohio, they're very good at it. If, however, these Brighton hopefuls are trying to impress with their originality, their stock starts to wilt in the shade of their obvious heroes in '90s bands like Stone Temple Pilots and Silverchair. Opener Stars Are Aligned includes the lyric '*In the dark no-one knows who you are*', something these songs are in danger of, given how much they sound like their influences. Petals is a giant *sounding* record, then, but one standing firmly on the shoulders of medium-sized giants.

DOWNLOAD: Stars Are Aligned
FOR FANS OF: Stone Temple Pilots, The Vines, Silverchair.

JAMES HICKIE

HINDSIGHTS

COLD WALLS/CLOUDY EYES
(BEACH COMMUNITY)

KKKK

A SOUNDTRACK OF SORROW FOR 20-SOMETHINGS

THERE'S MOMENTS on Cold Walls/Cloudy Eyes which recreate the dulling numbness that follows a mild panic attack. Fuelled by anxiety and sadness, tracks like Waiting Room and Pensive shine light on the quartet's stark vulnerability. The building guitars on opener Everything Inside Me Echoed set the scene early on, with Benio Baumgart and Billy Hutton's Weezer-ish riffs tip-toeing around their trembling dual vocals. Taking such somberness in their stride, it would seem, Cold Walls and Out Of My Skull pace around like unruly hospital patients. Gloomy they may be, but these Berkshire boys have crafted a debut full of hope here.

DOWNLOAD: Cold Walls.
FOR FANS OF: Weezer, Moose Blood, Motion City Soundtrack.

JESSICA BRIDGEMAN

chaos. It's incredibly brave, and yet there are elements that aren't too dissimilar to what Tim's best known for. Elsewhere, with studio whizz Brendan O'Brien behind the desk and guesting on guitar, the dark industrial pump of songs like Supernatural and T.F.U. sound like Depeche Mode, Killing Joke and The Prodigy having a jam. On Mars. Yep, #SteroidsOrHeroin is that bonkers, and it's every bit as good as that sounds.

DOWNLOAD: Mountain Lion, Supernatural.

FOR FANS OF: RATM, Nine Inch Nails, Killing Joke.

AMIT SHARMA

BIO-CANCER

TORMENTING THE INNOCENT
(CANDLELIGHT)

KKK

GREEK THRASH MANIACS SPREAD THE DISEASE

THE RELATIONSHIP between Bio-Cancer and subtlety was shown when they named their first album Ear Piercing Thrash. True to expectations, Tormenting The Innocent finds the Greek rivetheads serving up another wimp-battering selection of piledriving riffs and mercilessly chugging grooves. But while thrashing is their business (and business is good), there are hints of other influences. The harsh squawk of vocalist Lefteris Xatzhandreou is pure black metal fury, particularly on the monstrous Boxed Out, while F(r)iends Or Fiends? sounds like early Maiden. The innocent might be tormented, but us sinners will find plenty to enjoy here.

DOWNLOAD: Boxed Out.

FOR FANS OF: Destruction, Kreator, Municipal Waste.

OLLY THOMAS

KLASSIC ALBUM

KISS

DRESSED TO KILL
(CASABLANCA, 1975)

FORTY YEARS ago this month, Kiss headed into New York's Electric Ladyland studios to record their third album. While supported by a rabid cult following, they were miles away from blowing the roofs off arenas. In the very early days, their live budget probably wouldn't stretch to a pack of matches. But Dressed To Kill would change that, and hit hard, partly thanks to subsequent live album Alive which shot them to fame and immortalised four of the new songs, including Rock Bottom and the iconic Rock And Roll All Nite. The combination of those rough hewn, instantly catchy songs, and the quartet's new fire-breathing spectacle of a live show led to their becoming one of rock's most influential acts. Mere weeks in the making, it's an album that will outlive us all.

THE ALBUM WAS DONE IN NO TIME. CAN YOU EVEN REMEMBER RECORDING IT?

ACE FREHLEY (*GUITAR*): "Well, I just looked it up on Wikipedia, so I have my facts straight (*laughs*). We did it relatively quickly and certainly the production suffered, but, at that point, if we weren't in the studio, we were touring, so everything was rush rush rush!"

WHAT WAS IT LIKE WRITING WITH THE BAND IN THOSE EARLY YEARS?

"We tended to write songs individually – we'd go away and demo stuff and then present them to the rest of the band and the producer. I just noticed Peter [Criss, drums] doesn't have any songs on Dressed To Kill, but he sings lead vocal on Getaway, which I wrote. I didn't have the confidence to sing back then, so I offered the song to Peter. He was a better vocalist than me at the time!"

"WE COULDN'T AFFORD OUR OWN SUITS!"
ACE FREHLEY

APPARENTLY YOU WERE SO HARD UP THAT YOU COULDN'T AFFORD A PRODUCER...

"We *could* afford it, but the record company didn't wanna pay up, so we ended up having the album produced by Neil Bogart, the head of the label. Actually it turned out to be fun working with Neil. I thought he had some good ideas, and he was funny in the studio."

HOW DID THE FAMOUS COVER FEATURING THE BAND WEARING SUITS COME ABOUT?

"The idea was for us to be wearing suits and then switch to our Kiss costumes, kinda like Superman coming out of a phone booth. Unfortunately, we didn't own any suits at the time, and couldn't afford any, so we went over to [now-deceased Kiss manager] Bill Aucoin's apartment and raided his closet. We used to call Bill 'the fifth Kiss' as he had such a big input. People always think Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons ran the band, but that wasn't really the case back then. When the four of us were deadlocked, Bill's vote would be the tie-breaker."

HEAR IT IN FULL!

KERRANG! RADIO PLAY THE WHOLE ALBUM AT 10PM, FEBRUARY 19!

WORDS: STEVE BEEBEE

GIGS

MOVE, SHAKE, MOSH!

MARMOZETS

GO BANANAS FOR THE YORKSHIRE MONKEYS' BIGGEST TOUR YET!

ALRIGHT, BECCA! FINALLY YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN UK TOUR. WHAT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME?

BECCA MACINTYRE (*VOCALS*): "Obviously there'll be more songs. We're just going to make it as much fun as possible and get a little bit more creative. We want it to be '*the show*'. We'll have full production. We're rehearsing our butts off – but not thinking about it too much. We want people who've seen us to say, 'I think I love them even more now!'"

WHAT'S YOUR PRESHOW ROUTINE? DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SECRET HANDSHAKE OR ANYTHING?

"Yep! We get in a huddle and say shit to each other. We do it every single time before going onstage and say good luck or something funny. Then count down, get on the ground and go on. That's our little ritual. We made it up on the last America tour. It's our thing now – we have to do it."

WHAT'S THE MOST MENTAL SHOW YOU'VE PLAYED SO FAR?

"The first day of the Issues tour was carnage. Everyone was so excited because it was Hallowe'en. All the crowd were in costumes and all drunk and crazy. It was hell. But I believe in you guys out there! You can all top the craziness on this tour. We've never had anything weird thrown at us. We've had drinks and stuff thrown, but never anything really weird… maybe these shows will change all that. Who knows?!"

WORDS: HANNAH EWENS PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

SUPPORT: STEAK NUMBER EIGHT, THOUGHT FORMS

DATES: London Camden Electric Ballroom February 19, Bristol Fleece 20, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 21, Manchester Academy III 23, Glasgow Garage 24, Newcastle Riverside 25, Leeds Beckett Students' Union 27, Birmingham Library @ Institute 28.

TICKETS AND INFO FOR ALL THESE GIGS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

KERRANG! DAY

FEBRUARY 18

BIRMINGHAM INUIT (Hare & Hounds)
CARDIFF MARIACHI EL BRONX (Clwb Ifor Bach)
DUNDEE INCITE (Beat Bar)
GLASGOW FORT HOPE, DEAD! (Cathouse)
IPSWICH THE LION AND THE WOLF (Wine Bar)
LONDON EMPIRE (Black Heart, Camden)
LONDON MORIATY (Dublin Castle)
LONDON CHELSEA GRIN, VEIL OF MAYA, BLACK TONGUE, OCEANS ATE ALASKA (Underworld, Camden)
MANCHESTER HAWK EYES, GOD DAMN (Sound Control)
MILTON KEYNES SNOT, THE BASTARD SONS (Craufurd Arms)
NOTTINGHAM BLACK LABEL SOCIETY, BLACK TUSK, CROBOT (Rock City)
PORTSMOUTH MARMOZETS, STEAK NUMBER EIGHT, THOUGHT FORMS (Wedgewood Rooms)
SOUTHAMPTON 36 CRAZYFISTS, ALL HAIL THE YETI, SHVPES (Engine Rooms)
WOLVERHAMPTON ENTER SHIKARI, FEED THE RHINO, ALLUSONDRUGS, FATHERSON (Civic Hall)

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 19

OXFORD: 36 Crazyfists

BRIGHTON TOUNDRA (Hope)
LONDON MARMOZETS, STEAK NUMBER EIGHT, THOUGHT FORMS (Electric Ballroom, Camden)
LONDON SNOT, THE BASTARD SONS (Garage, Highbury)
LONDON THE USED, LANDSCAPES, DECADE (KOKO, Camden)
LONDON INUIT (Stillery)
MANCHESTER BLACK LABEL SOCIETY, BLACK TUSK, CROBOT (Academy)
MANCHESTER FORT HOPE, DEAD! (Sound Control)
NEWCASTLE HAWK EYES, GOD DAMN (Cluny)
NORWICH EMPIRE (Owl Sanctuary)
NOTTINGHAM DARLIA, NOTHING BUT THIEVES (Bodega)
NOTTINGHAM INCITE (Rock City)
OXFORD 36 CRAZYFISTS, ALL HAIL THE YETI, SHVPES (O2 Academy Oxford)

GLAMOUR OF THE KILL

They look good and have glamour in their name but no-one is free from the odd fashion faux pas, as vocalist Davey Richmond will attest…

THE 'DO OF DEVASTATION

"My greatest error was when my hair was long, dyed black and with a fringe. I thought I was God's gift, but looking back I can see I looked a total dick! I wanted Paul Stanley from Kiss' hair but ended up with that! Cutting it off felt good – and I lost about five stone in weight, too!"

THE RIP OF SHAME

"Sometimes it's decent clothes that fail you. At one of our first London gigs, I had a little tear in the crotch of my jeans, and I thought I'd get away with it, but a few seconds into the first song I put my foot on the monitor and it ripped from my crotch to the knee! And my boxer shorts had ridden up and I looked like I was wearing Y-fronts, which was entertaining for the front row!"

THE ONESIE OF SNUGGLINESS

"My most un-rock'n'roll outfit comes out when I'm chilling at home, because I like to wear onesies! I know that's pretty bad fashion-wise but I love them! I got a Despicable Me one for Christmas, it's bright yellow and when I put the hood up I look like I've got a Minion head! It's the best!"

SUPPORT: THE HYPE THEORY, EOFE, ASHES

DATES: Aberdeen Downstairs February 23 Glasgow Audio 24, Newcastle Think Tank? 25, Manchester Sound Control 26, York Fibbers 27, London Camden Underworld 28, Bristol Exchange March 1, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 3, Stoke Sugarmill 4, Nuneaton Queens Hall 5, Nottingham Rock City Basement 6, Gloucester Guildhall 7, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 8.

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 20

BRISTOL: The Used

BRIGHTON SNOT, THE BASTARD SONS (Audio)
BRISTOL MARMOZETS, STEAK NUMBER EIGHT, THOUGHT FORMS (Fleece)
BRISTOL MORIATY (Golden Lion)
BRISTOL THE USED, LANDSCAPES, DECADE (O2 Academy Bristol)
DUBLIN DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979, TURBOWOLF (Academy)
GLASGOW HAWK EYES, GOD DAMN (Nice N' Sleazy)
HIGH WYCOMBE THE LION AND THE WOLF (Phoenix)
LONDON QUEEN KONG (Upstairs @ Garage, Highbury)
LONDON EARTH (Islington Assembly Hall)
LONDON BLEACH BLOOD, THE GOSPEL YOUTH (Stillery, Camden)
MANCHESTER ENTER SHIKARI, FEED THE RHINO, ALLUSONDRUGS, FATHERSON (Academy)
MANCHESTER DARLIA, NOTHING BUT THIEVES (Academy 3)
MILTON KEYNES EMPIRE (Craufurd Arms)
NOTTINGHAM GRANT NICHOLAS (Bodega)
SHEERNESS INUIT (Ivy Leaf)

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 21

BELFAST DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979, TURBOWOLF (Limelight)
BIRMINGHAM EARTH (Oobleck)
BRIGHTON NIGHTLIFE, TRAILS, THE LION & THE WOLF, SCOUTS, HATERS (Sticky Mike's)
GLASGOW ENTER SHIKARI, FEED THE RHINO, ALLUSONDRUGS, FATHERSON (Barrowland)
LEEDS HAWK EYES, GOD DAMN (Brudenell Social Club)
LEEDS TRACK AND FIELD (Brudenell Social Club)
LONDON FORT HOPE, DEAD! (Borderline)
LONDON QUEEN KONG (Hoxton Square Bar)
NEWQUAY MORIATY (Mermaid Inn)
NOTTINGHAM MARMOZETS, STEAK NUMBER EIGHT, THOUGHT FORMS (Rescue Rooms)
NOTTINGHAM EMPIRE (Rock City Basement)
OXFORD INUIT (Cellar)
STOKE DARLIA, NOTHING BUT THIEVES (Sugarmill)

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 22

BRIGHTON ANDREW MCMAHON, SYKES (Haunt)
BRISTOL INCITE (Exchange)
BRISTOL DARLIA, NOTHING BUT THIEVES (Thekla)
GLASGOW ROYAL BLOOD, MINI MANSIONS (Barrowland)
HUDDERSFIELD EMPIRE (Parish)
LEEDS EARTH (Brudenell Social Club)
LEEDS TRAILS, SCOUTS (Temple Of Boom)
LONDON YOU ME AT SIX (War Child @ Hoxton Bar & Kitchen)
MIDDLESBROUGH ENTER SHIKARI, FEED THE RHINO, ALLUSONDRUGS, FATHERSON (Town Hall)
PETERBOROUGH FORT HOPE, DEAD! (Met Lounge)

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 23

GLASGOW: Royal Blood

ABERDEEN GLAMOUR OF THE KILL, THE HYPE THEORY, EOFE, ASHES (Downstairs)
BIRMINGHAM ANDREW MCMAHON, SYKES (Glee Club)
BIRMINGHAM FIGHTSTAR, MORE DANGEROUS ANIMAL, SHVPES, MOOSE BLOOD (Institute)
BIRMINGHAM FORT HOPE, DEAD! (Rainbow)
BRIGHTON MAX RAPTOR, YEARBOOK, SWIM GOOD (Green Door Store)
EASTBOURNE THE LION AND THE WOLF (Buskers Bar)
GLASGOW ROYAL BLOOD, MINI MANSIONS (Barrowland)
GLASGOW DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979, TURBOWOLF (O2 ABC Glasgow)
LONDON INCITE (Black Heart, Camden)
MANCHESTER MARMOZETS, STEAK NUMBER EIGHT, THOUGHT FORMS (Academy 3)
NEWCASTLE EARTH (Cluny)
PLYMOUTH BELPHEGOR (Hub)

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 24

BRIDGEND GNARWOLVES, BOXKITE (Hobos)
BRIGHTON EARTH (Komedia)
CAMBRIDGE ENTER SHIKARI, FEED THE RHINO, ALLUSONDRUGS, FATHERSON (Corn Exchange)
GLASGOW GLAMOUR OF THE KILL, THE HYPE THEORY, EOFE, ASHES (Audio)
GLASGOW MARMOZETS, STEAK NUMBER EIGHT, THOUGHT FORMS (Garage)
GLASGOW FIGHTSTAR, MORE DANGEROUS ANIMAL, SHVPES, MOOSE BLOOD (O2 ABC Glasgow)
GUILDFORD MAX RAPTOR, YEARBOOK, SWIM GOOD (Boileroom)
LEEDS DARLIA, NOTHING BUT THIEVES (Wardrobe)
MANCHESTER BELPHEGOR (Academy)
MANCHESTER DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979, TURBOWOLF (Ritz)
WOLVERHAMPTON EMPIRE (Slade Rooms)
YORK GRANT NICHOLAS (Fibbers)

LOCAL HEROES
SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE UK'S UNSIGNED TALENT!

FROM: Leeds.
WE ARE: Lauren Leigh (vocals), Bill O'Dwyer (guitarist), Liam O'Connell (bassist), Jacob Arundale (drums).
FAVOURITE BANDS: Evanescence, The Pretty Reckless, LostAlone, Avenged Sevenfold.
WE SOUND LIKE...: "The purest, most euphoric internal bliss ever to grace your soul. Our crushing riffs and melodic vocals will leave you with a growing fever of ecstasy. The only way to satisfy your new addiction is with the concoction of Amy Lee meets Miss Momsen meets Death Bat."
PEOPLE SHOULD CHECK US OUT 'CAUSE...: "Making music is our creative outlet. It allows us to help and inspire people along the way just like our favourite bands helped and influenced us."
CATCH US AT: Bradford Trap Door August 2.
MORE INFO AT: Facebook.com/sweetexileband

THIS WEEK!

SWEET EXILE

ARE YOU AND YOUR BANDMATES LOCAL HEROES? IF SO, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ABOVE TO GIGS@KERRANG.COM, AND DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH A PHOTO OF YOUR BAND. SIMPLY PUT 'LOCAL HEROES' AND YOUR BAND NAME IN THE SUBJECT HEADER AND YOU COULD BE APPEARING IN THIS VERY SLOT VERY SOON...

For free inclusion, e-mail your gig/festival details to: Gigs@kerrang.com
Please include: 1. DATE 2. CITY 3. VENUE 4. BAND (+band genre) 5. SUPPORT BANDS or FESTIVAL INFO. No attachments!
Note: If any of these details are missing, listing will not be included.
Deadline is 15 days previous to Kerrang! issue dates.

GO SEE! YOU ME AT SIX

SUPPORT: NONE NECESSARY!
TOUR DATE: LONDON HOXTON BAR & KITCHEN FEBRUARY 22.

Once you've finished having a nice old stroll in the park, lads (if you see any #rare red squirrels, tweet us a pic immediately. IMMEDIATELY!), it's time to head down to Hoxton Bar & Kitchen for your special, intimate show. And we're being serious about it being intimate. The venue is only 260 cap, so any fans there are practically going to be sat on their friends' laps. In fact, on Mr Josh Franceschi's lap. Does that work for you, Josh? You can sing with a pile of people sat on your chest. The gig's for a good cause, too. Some of the money goes to charity War Child to help kids affected by war. Nice job, Josh and co! (We weren't kidding about the squirrels, btw).

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

JUST ANNOUNCED!

OFF WITH A BANG: Young Guns

ALLUSONDRUGS
Aldershot West End Centre March 6, Portsmouth Cellars 9, Bournemouth Anvil 10, Bridgewater Tiki Beach Bar 11, London Old Blue Last 13, Halifax Decade Fest 14, St Albans Horn 15, Bristol Stag & Hounds 16, Cambridge Portland Arms 17, Milton Keynes Craufurd 19, Leicester Soundhouse 20, Birmingham Flapper 21, Chester Compass 24, Stoke Underground 25, Blackburn Blakey's 28, Lincoln Engine Shed 31, Hull Fruit April 2, Doncaster Diamond Live 3, Stockton Stockton Calling Fest 4, Wakefield Warehouse 23 5, Glasgow Audio 7, Aberdeen Tunnels 8, Dundee Buskers 9, Sheffield Corporation 10, Barnsley Opium 11, Wrexham Focus Wales Fest 24.

AMERICAN NIGHTMARE
Date added: London Camden Electric Ballroom April 30.

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE
Date added: London O2 Empire Shepherd's Bush June 10.

FRANK TURNER AND THE SLEEPING SOULS
London Royal Albert Hall March 29.

FURYFEST
Line-up: Motion City Soundtrack, Man Overboard, Trash Talk, Moose Blood, Astroid Boys, ROAM, Blood Youth, Boston Manor, Trash Boat, Waster, Milestones, Please Head North, Bearing Loss. Liverpool Arts Club May 2 – 3.

HOOBASTANK / P.O.D. / ALIEN ANT FARM
London Camden KOKO May 7, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 8, Nottingham Rock City 9, Plymouth University 10, Reading Sub89 12, Wrexham William Aston Hall 13, Bristol Motions 14, Cardiff Y Plas 15, Manchester Academy II 16, Southampton Engine Rooms 17.

KROKODIL
London Black Heart March 19.

LA DISPUTE / FUCKED UP
London Camden KOKO May 26.

MAN OVERBOARD
Support added: Moose Blood, Smile And Burn.

NICKELBACK
Support added: Monster Truck.

QUEENSRŸCHE
Bristol Marble Factory August 5, London Electric Ballroom 6, Brighton Concorde II 8. Support: Death Angel plus Armored Saint for London date).

THERAPY?
Bristol Marble March 27, Gloucester Guidhall 28, Brighton Concorde II 31, London Scala April 1, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 12, Cardiff Globe 13, Reading Sub89 14, Birmingham Rainbow Warehouse 16, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 17, Manchester Academy II 18, Leeds Brudenell Society Club 19, Northampton Roadmender 20, Norwich Waterfront 21, Glasgow Oran Mor 23, Newcastle Academy 24, Coventry Kasbah 25.

TOP BUZZER / BOWKER
London Tooting Tram & Social February 26, Stockport Blue Cat 27, Liverpool Lomax 28, Southport Ship & Anchor March 1.

YOUNG GUNS
O2 Academy Oxford March 27, Reading Bowery District 28, Colchester Arts Centre 29, Bristol Fleece 31, Stoke Sugarmill April 1, Brighton Haunt 2, Leeds Key Club 4, Edinburgh Electric Circus 5, Liverpool Arts Club Loft 6, Guildford Boileroom May 29, Chester Live Rooms 30, Carlisle Brickyard 31, Peterborough Cresset June 1, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 3, Cardiff Y Plas 4, Manchester Academy II 5, Norwich Waterfront 6, London Scala 8, Glasgow Garage 9, Sheffield Plug 10.

ZZ TOP
London SSE Arena Wembley June 24. Support: Thunder.

KORN

DATE ADDED: O2 Apollo Manchester July 15.

Tickets for all K! gigs are available from:

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
Dublin O2 Arena May 28, Belfast Odyssey Arena 30, Glasgow SSE Hydro June 1, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 2, Leeds First Direct Arena 3, Birmingham NIA 5 – 6, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 7, Manchester Phones 4u Arena 9, Liverpool Echo Arena 10, London SSE Arena Wembley 12 – 14.

2000TREES FESTIVAL
Line-up: Deaf Havana, Kerbdog, Pulled Apart By Horses, Arcane Roots, Rob Lynch, Big Sixes, Allusondrugs, Nothing But Thieves, &U&I, Solemn Sun, Milk Teeth. Cheltenham Upcote Farm July 9 – 11.

AC/DC
Glasgow Hampden Park June 28, Dublin Aviva Stadium July 1, London Wembley Stadium 4.

ALL TIME LOW
London SSE Arena Wembley March 20. Support: Neck Deep, Real Friends.

AMERICAN NIGHTMARE
London Camden Electric Ballroom April 29

ANATHEMA
London O2 Empire Shepherd's Bush April 16.

AND SO I WATCH YOU FROM AFAR
Glasgow King Tut's April 28, Manchester Gorilla 29, Bristol Marble Factory 30, London Islington Assembly Hall May 1.

ARCHITECTS
Bristol Anson Rooms March 9, Manchester Ritz 10, O2 ABC Glasgow 11, Birmingham Institute 12, Nottingham Rock City 13, London Camden Roundhouse 14. Support: Every Time I Die, blessthefall, Counterparts.

ATREYU
London Camden Underworld April 29.

THE BLACKOUT
Birmingham Asylum March 23, London Camden KOKO 24, Manchester Academy III 25, Glasgow King Tut's 26, Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre 28.

BLACK VEIL BRIDES
London Highbury Garage March 13, London Camden Electric Ballroom 15.

BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR
Line-up: Black Label Society, Napalm Death, Wolf, Trivium, Rob Zombie, Within Temptation, Opeth, Ihsahn, Cannibal Corpse, Sepultura, Death DTA, Dark Angel, Nuclear Assault, Orange Goblin, 1349, Armored Saint, Overkill, Ensiferum, Belphegor, Sabaton, Agalloch, Enslaved, Korpiklaani, Pro-pain, Delain, Fleshgod Apocalypse, Battalion, Mordred, Destrage. Derbyshire Catton Park August 6 – 9.

CAMDEN ROCKS
Line-up: Funeral For A Friend, …And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead, Black Spiders, Turbowolf, Lawnmower Deth, Dinosaur Pile-Up, Feed The Rhino, Black Moth, Max Raptor, Martyr Defiled, God Damn, Rob Lynch, Attention Thieves, The One Hundred, Samoans, Dead, Oxygen Thief. Camden (various venues) May 30.

CIRCA SURVIVE / RX BANDITS
Brighton Haunt May 18, Leeds Key Club 19, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 20, O2 ABC2 Glasgow 21, Nottingham Rock City Basement 22, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 23, Manchester Sound Control 25, Bristol Marble Factory 26, Southampton Engine Rooms 27, London Camden Electric Ballroom 28. Support: From Indian Lakes.

COMEBACK KID
London Highbury Garage May 22. Support: Bane.

CONVERGE
London ULU May 30. Support: Trap Them, Harms Way, Young And In The Way.

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE
London O2 Empire Shepherd's Bush June 8 – 9.

DECAPITATED
UK Techfest @ Newark Showground, Newark-on-Trent July 9 – 13.

DEVIL SOLD HIS SOUL
Brighton Green Door Store April 22, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 23, Manchester Sound Control 24, Leeds Key Club 30, Glasgow Classic Grand May 1, Wrexham Central Station 2, Norwich Epic Studios 3, London 100 Club 4. Support: Dead Harts, When We Were Wolves.

DEVIN TOWNSEND PROJECT
O2 Academy Bristol March 29, O2 ABC Glasgow 30, Manchester Academy 31, London Royal Albert Hall April 13. Support: Periphery, Shining.

DOWNLOAD
Line-up: Slipknot, Muse, Kiss, Judas Priest, Faith No More, Mötley Crüe, Five Finger Death Punch, A Day To Remember, Slash Featuring Myles Kennedy & The Conspirators, Black Stone Cherry, Marilyn Manson, Enter Shikari, Black Veil Brides, Lamb Of God, Billy Idol, Rise Against, Parkway Drive, Hollywood Undead, Clutch, Body Count, Eagles Of Death Metal, Godsmack, Mallory Knox, Motionless In White, Madball, Every Time I Die, DragonForce, Backyard Babies, Crown The Empire, Northlane, H.E.A.T, Andrew W.K., We Are Harlot, King 810, Ace Frehley, All That Remains, Bombus, Black Star Riders, Blood Youth, Chelsea Grin, Creeper, Defeater, Evil Scarecrow, Fearless Vampire Killers, Gnarwolves, Hands Like Houses, Hellyeah, In Flames, L7, Stray From The Path, Testament, Thunder. Donington Park June 12 – 14.

ENTER SHIKARI
Wolverhampton Wolves Civic February 18, Manchester Manchester Academy 20, Glasgow Barrowland Ballroom 21, Middlesbrough Town Hall 22, Cambridge Corn Exchange 24, Norwich Nick Rayns LCR UEA 25, London Camden Roundhouse 26 – 27. Support: Feed The Rhino, Allusondrugs, Fatherson.

FALL OUT BOY
Leeds First Direct Arena October 3, Aberdeen AECC GE Oil & Gas Arena 4, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 6, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 7, Manchester Arena 9, Bournemouth International Centre 10, London SSE Arena Wembley 11 – 12.

FIGHTSTAR
Birmingham Institute February 23, O2 ABC Glasgow 24, Manchester Academy 26, London O2 Academy Brixton 27 (rescheduled date). Support: Moose Blood, More Dangerous Animal, SHVPES.

FOO FIGHTERS
Sunderland Stadium Of Light May 25, Manchester Emirates Old Trafford 27, London Wembley Stadium June 19 – 20, Edinburgh BT Murrayfield Stadium 23. Support: Iggy Pop, Royal Blood (June dates only).

FORT HOPE
Glasgow Cat House February

18, Manchester Sound Control 19, London Borderline 21, Peterborough Met Lounge 22, Birmingham Rainbow 23. Support: Dead!.

FOUR YEAR STRONG
Leeds Metropolitan University March 20, Glasgow Arches 21, Manchester Academy II 22, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 23, Cardiff Y Plas II 24, Norwich Waterfront 25, London Camden Electric Ballroom March 26, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 27, Brighton Concorde II 28, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 29. Support: Hit The Lights, Forever Came Calling, Light You Up.

FRNKIERO ANDTHE CELLABRATION
Manchester Deaf Institute April 16, Leeds Key Club 17, Glasgow King Tut's 19, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 20, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 22, Brighton Haunt 23, O2 Academy Oxford 24, London Camden Underworld 28, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 29, London Camden Underworld May 10.

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND
Norwich Waterfront March 6, Southend Chinnery's 7, Cambridge Portland Arms 8, Falmouth Pavilions 12, Bournemouth Sound Circus 13, Exeter Cavern 14, Kingston New Slang 19, Brighton Haunt 20, Hertfordshire Forum 21, Chester Live Rooms 26, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 27, Northampton Roadmender 28. Support: Grader and Svalbard (March 6 – 14), Vales and Employed To Serve (March 19 – 28).

GALLOWS
Glasgow Cathouse May 22, London Highbury Garage 26, Manchester Sound Control 27. Support: Baby Godzilla.

GNARWOLVES
Bridgend Hobos February 24, Swindon Vic 25, Guildford Boileroom 26, Southampton Joiners 27, Plymouth Junction 28. Support: Boxkite.

HALESTORM
Dublin Academy February 27, Belfast Limelight 28, Norwich UEA March 2, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 Academy Leeds 5, Glasgow Barrowland 6, Inverness Ironworks 7, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 9, London Camden Roundhouse 10, O2 Guildhall Southampton 12, Cardiff Uni Great Hall 13, O2 Apollo Manchester 14. Support: Nothing More (except Norwich and Nottingham), Wilson.

HAWK EYES
Manchester Sound Control February 18, Newcastle The Cluny 19, Glasgow Nice N Sleazy 20, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 21. Support: God Damn.

HEVY FESTIVAL
Line-up: The Dillinger Escape Plan, Monuments, Vales, Grader, Up River, OHHMS, Collisions. Port Lympne Wild Animal Park August 14 – 15.

HIT THE DECK
Line-up: Skindred, While She Sleeps, Cancer Bats, frnkiero andthecel-labration, A Great Big Pile Of Leaves, Allusondrugs, Ashes, As It Is, Beasts, City Of Ships, Dead!, Dead Hearts, Decade, Devil Sold His Soul, The Early November, Idiom, Junius, Rolo Tomassi, The Swellers, Thomas Nicholas Band, Tim Vantol, When We Were Wolves, You Blew It!, ZOAX. Bristol April 25, Nottingham 26.

IMPERICON FESTIVAL
Line-up: Deez Nuts, Adept, The Ghost Inside, Whitechapel, Suicide Silence, Stick To Your Guns, Carnifex, Being As An Ocean, Ingested, Desolated Inc. Manchester Academy May 4.

INCUBUS
London Eventim Apollo June 16.

IN THIS MOMENT
Glasgow Garage February 28, Leeds Metropolitan University Beckett SU March 1, Manchester Academy II 2, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 4, London Camden KOKO 5. Support: Fearless Vampire Killers.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL
Line-up: The Prodigy, You Me At Six, Billy Idol. Newport Seaclose Park June 12 – 15.

KORN
London O2 Academy Brixton July 16.

LONELY THE BRAVE
Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach March 4, High Wycombe Buck Students' Union 5, Bicester Courtyard Youth Arts Centre 6, Leicester Scholar 7, Nottingham Bodega (basement) 9, Manchester Ruby Lounge 10, Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 12, Newcastle Upon Tyne Cluny 13, York Fibbers 15, Leeds Key Club 16, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 17, London ULU 19, Tunbridge Wells Forum 20, Brighton Sticky Mike's 21, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 23, Bristol Exchange 24.

MAN OVERBOARD
London O2 Academy Islington April 24, Cardiff Ifor Bach 25, Bristol Exchange 26, Leicester Scholar Bar 28, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 29, Newcastle Think Tank? 30, Glasgow Audio May 1, Manchester Sound Control 2, Liverpool Fury Fest 3, Leeds Key Club 4. Support: ROAM.

MASKED INTRUDER
Manchester Sound Control May 13, Glasgow 13th Note 14, Bristol Exchange 15, Kingston Fighting Cocks 16, London Borderline 17.

MARMOZETS
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms February 18, London Electric Ballroom 19, Bristol The Fleece 20, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 21, Manchester Academy III 23, Glasgow Garage 24, Newcastle Riverside 25, Leeds Beckett Students' Union 27, Birmingham Library @ Institute 28.

MOOSE BLOOD
Colchester Arts Centre March 3, St Albans Horn 4, Leicester Scholar Bar 5, Northampton Roadmender Underground 6. Support: Creeper.

NASS FESTIVAL
Line-up: Enter Shikari. Bath & West Showground. July 10 – 12.

NICKELBACK
Sheffield Motorpoint Arena November 13, Glasgow SSE Hydro 14, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 16, Manchester Arena 17, Liverpool Echo Arena 19, Birmingham Genting Arena 21, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 22, London SSE Arena Wembley 24.

NIGHTWISH
London SSE Arena Wembley, December 19. Support: Arch Enemy, Amorphis.

NOFX / ALKALINE TRIO
O2 Academy Birmingham June 27, O2 Academy Newcastle 30, O2 Academy Leeds July 3, London O2 Academy Brixton 4 – 5.

OF MICE & MEN
O2 Guildhall Southampton March 26, O2 Academy Bristol 27, London O2 Academy Brixton 28, Glasgow Barrowland 30, O2 Academy Newcastle 31, Nottingham Rock City April 2, O2 Academy Birmingham 3, Manchester Academy 4. Support: The Amity Affliction, Volumes.

PAPA ROACH
Norwich UEA March 8, O2 Academy Bristol 10, O2 Guildhall Southampton 11, London Camden Roundhouse 12, Glasgow Barrowland 14, Manchester Academy 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 17, Nottingham Rock City 18. Support: coldrain, The One Hundred.

PLACEBO
Dublin Olympia February 25, Belfast Waterfront 26, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 28, O2 Academy Glasgow March 1, Aberdeen Music Hall 3, O2 Academy Newcastle 4, Hull City Hall 6, Blackburn King George's Hall 7, O2 Academy Leeds 9, Liverpool Guild Of Students 10, O2 Apollo Manchester 12, O2 Academy Sheffield 13, Norwich UEA 15, Leicester De Montfort Hall 16, O2 Academy Birmingham 18, Bristol Colston Hall 19, O2 Academy Bournemouth 21, Southend Cliffs Pavilion 22, London Eventim Apollo 24 – 25.

THE PRODIGY
O2 Academy Newcastle May 4, Bridlington Spa 5, O2 Academy Birmingham 7, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 8, Blackpool Empress Ballroom 9, Reading Rivermead 11, Brighton Centre 12, Bournemouth International Centre 14, London Alexandra Palace 15 – 16.

PVRIS
London Camden Barfly April 16, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 18. Support: Light You Up, Twin Wild.

RADKEY
Manchester Night & Day Cafe March 6.

READING & LEEDS
Line-up: Metallica, Pierce The Veil, Refused, Manchester Orchestra, Royal Blood. Reading Richfield Avenue and Leeds Bramham Park August 28 – 30.

REAL FRIENDS
Manchester Sound Control March 19, Birmingham Asylum 21, London Camden Underworld 22. Support: Brawlers, Trash Boat.

RIVAL SONS
O2 Academy Leeds March 28, O2 Academy Liverpool 29, O2 Academy Glasgow 30, London Camden Roundhouse April 1, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 Guildhall Southampton 4.

ROYAL BLOOD
Glasgow Barrowland February 22 – 23, Plymouth Pavilions 27, Bridlington Spa 28, Portsmouth Guildhall March 2, Newport Centre 3, Norwich UEA 5, Blackpool Empress Ballroom 6, Belfast Ulster Hall 8, Dublin Olympia 9 – 10, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 11, London O2 Academy Brixton 13, Nottingham Rock City 14.

SAMOANS
Swansea Sin City April 1, Manchester Sound Control 2, Aberdeen Downstairs 3, Glasgow Garage (upstairs) 4, Sheffield Corporation 6, London Old Blue Last 7, Tunbridge Wells Forum 8, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 9, Birmingham Flapper 10, Exeter Cavern 11.

SLAM DUNK
Line-up: You Me At Six, Taking Back Sunday, Lower Than Atlantis, The Wonder Years, Neck Deep, Bayside, Knuckle Puck, Fireworks, Reel Big Fish, Millencolin, Goldfinger, Crossfaith, Gallows, H20, Comeback Kid, Bane. Leeds City Centre May 23, Hertfordshire Forum 24, Wolverhampton City Centre 25.

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS / PIERCE THE VEIL
Norwich UEA March 29, Portsmouth Guildhall 30, O2 Academy Bristol 31, Manchester Academy April 2, O2 Academy Leeds 3, O2 Academy Newcastle 6, Nottingham Rock City 7, O2 Academy Birmingham 8, London Kentish Town Forum 10 – 11. Support: Issues.

SUCH GOLD / TRANSIT
Kingston Fighting Cocks May 3, Norwich Epic Studios 4, Nottingham Rock City Basement 5, Glasgow Audio 7, Newcastle Think Tank? 8, Manchester Sound Control 9, London Borderline 20, Southampton Joiners 21, Cardiff Four Bars 22.

THE SWELLERS
Birmingham Rainbow April 21, Manchester Sound Control 22, Glasgow Audio 23, Leeds Key Club 24, London Tufnell Park Dome 27, Brighton Hope 28.

STEEL PANTHER
O2 Apollo Manchester March 6 – 7, O2 Academy Glasgow 9, Newcastle O2 Academy 10, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 12, Leicester O2 Academy 13, London SSE Arena Wembley 14. Support: Skindred, The Lounge Kittens.

SYSTEM OF A DOWN
London SSE Arena Wembley April 10.

TAKEDOWN FESTIVAL
Line-up: Mallory Knox, Charlie Simpson, InMe, Bleed From Within, Devil Sold His Soul, Decade, Empire, The One Hundred, Allusondrugs, Milk Teeth, In The Hills, Dendera, Confessions Of A Traitor, Refuge Of The Fallen, Griever, Three Times Over, Baby Godzilla, Fearless Vampire Killers, Fort Hope, Rolo Tomassi, ZOAX, Colt 45, Ugly Love, Dead!, Ashestoangels, Create To Inspire, Forever Never, Meta-stasis, Seething Akira, Gone By Tomorrow. Southampton University March 7.

TITLE FIGHT
Bristol Thekla May 2, Leeds Outbreak Festival 3, Glasgow Classic Grand 4, London Dome 6.

TRASH TALK / BEING AS AN OCEAN
Glasgow Cathouse May 5, London ULU 6. Support: Deez Nuts, Stick To Your Guns.

TWIN ATLANTIC
Manchester Albert Hall May 5, London O2 Academy Brixton 7, O2 Academy Birmingham 8, Glasgow SSE Hydro 9.

WE ARE THE OCEAN
London Camden Electric Ballroom April 8.

WHILE SHE SLEEPS / CANCER BATS
Birmingham Institute April 22, Manchester Ritz 23, Norwich UEA 24, Newcastle University 28, O2 ABC Glasgow 29, London Kentish Town Forum 30. Support: Hundredth, Oathbreaker.

THE XCERTS
Guildford Boileroom April 10, Tunbridge Wells Forum 11, York Duchess 13, Hull Fruit 14, Aberdeen Lemon Tree 15, Inverness Ironworks 16, Edinburgh Mash House 17, Birmingham Rainbow 19, London Borderline 20, Cambridge Portland 21, Northampton Roadmender 22, Exeter Cavern 23.

YOU ME AT SIX
War Child charity show @ London Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen February 22.

YELLOWCARD / LESS THAN JAKE
Glasgow O2 Academy March 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 5, O2 Academy Newcastle 6, Nottingham Rock City 7, London Camden KOKO 9 – 10, Manchester Academy 12, O2 Academy Bristol 13, O2 Academy Leeds 14. Support: Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!.

MY FIRST GIG

JIMMY EAT WORLD / PARAMORE, TSONGAS ARENA, MA, 2008

LYNN GUNN, PVRIS

"I LOVE telling this story. It's my favourite. Well, when I was in the sixth or seventh grade – I think? My dates aren't so great – I went to see Jimmy Eat World and Paramore play a show together. That was my first big concert in a huge arena – Tsongas Arena in Lowell, Massachusetts, our hometown arena. I went along with my best friend and some other people. It's weird because that is still the only time I've seen Paramore. If I remember correctly, I used a whole bunch of my allowance for it. I remember doing lots and lots of dishes and mowing the lawn loads.

"Jimmy Eat World played a ton of songs from the albums Futures and Chase This Light. Paramore played a bunch off of Riot! and a couple from All We Know Is Falling – which was great because I loved the tracks they chose. To be honest, I just remember it being a really energetic show and a lot of fun to watch. There was a ton of dancing from me and my friends. It was especially cool to watch Hayley Williams –

"HAYLEY KICKED ASS AND OWNED THE STAGE!"

that was a huge thing for me as a female artist. I was a young girl myself and was getting to watch another girl who kicked ass totally owning the stage. If you're seeing someone onstage doing her thing, being awesome, something in you thinks that you can do that. Hayley is the best.

"That show was really the moment I remember being like, 'This is so cool. I really, really want to do this when I'm older.' It was truly motivational and inspirational. Shows have the power to be like that sometimes. When we left the show and were walking the way back to our car, I told my friends that I was definitely gonna do that one day when we'd all grown up. And of course they were all, 'Okay!' and rolled their eyes at me. And now, guess what? Here we are."

COMING SOON: Tool, blink-182 and Fall Out Boy

WORDS: HANNAH EWENS

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OH GOD! THEY'RE COMING...

THE RETURN OF THE

50 GREATEST ROCKSTARS IN THE WORLD TODAY!

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For the latest subscription offers and back issues, call +44 (0)1858 438884. Email – bauer@subscription.co.uk. Kerrang!, ISSN 0262-6624 is published 51 times a year by Bauer Consumer Media Limited, registered office: 1 Lincoln Court, Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2RF. Airfreight and mailing in the USA by agent named Air Business Ltd, c/o Worldnet Shipping Inc., 156-15, 146th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Jamaica, NY 11434, USA. Periodicals postage paid at Jamaica NY 11431.

U.S. Postmaster: send address changes to Kerrang!, Air Business Ltd, c/o Worldnet Shipping Inc., 156-15, 146th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Jamaica, NY 11434, USA. Subscription records are maintained at Bauer Media Subscriptions, CDS Global, Tower House, Sovereign Park, Lathkill Street, Market Harborough, Leicester, LE16 9EF, United Kingdom. Air Business Ltd is acting as our mailing agent.

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THE ALL-NEW ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

THIS WEEK: JACOBY SHADDIX, PAPA ROACH

Cut band blokes into pieces. This is The Rockstar Test. Here's the questions, no cheating, don't give a fuck if you're not Lemmy-beating… G'wan then, Jac…

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

BACK IN THE DAY, WHAT'S THE MOST YOU SPENT ON A BINGE?
"Oh god… Well, it lasted a couple of fucking years, so it would have to be upwards of 30 grand! We used to have insane amounts of Champagne. Two bottles of the most expensive Champagne would be $500 a day, and you're doing that five days a week… You do the math."

WHO'S THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON TO EVER HIT YOU WITH A CHAIR?
"Eminem. He's definitely the most famous person that's ever clobbered me with a chair. There's a video floating around of us WWE wrestling in a dressing room. There was me, our old drummer, Dave Buckner, Xzibit and Eminem. We destroyed the place."

HAVE YOU EVER DONE SOMETHING RIDICULOUS FOR A DARE?
"I burned myself five times with cigarettes in one night. I was drunk with Sid [Wilson, DJ] from Slipknot, actually. He went, 'I dare you.' I woke up with all these burn marks and I'm like, 'What the fuck is wrong with me?' Trying to keep up with those crazies is impossible."
SEE? SMOKING IS BAD FOR YOU…

ON YOUR OWN MUSIC...

WHICH PAPA ROACH SONG APPEARED ON THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED SOUNDTRACK?
"Dead Cell. I loved [other Anne Rice flick] Interview With The Vampire, and I thought they did a good job with Queen… it was a cool soundtrack."
CORRECT. BUT WOULDN'T BLOOD BROTHERS HAVE BEEN MORE APT?

WHAT WAS THE TITLE OF THE PAPA ROACH TRIBUTE ALBUM BY THE VITAMIN STRING QUARTET?
"I know what you're talking about but I have no fucking clue what it was called! It is fantastic though, I loved it!"
IT WAS STRUNG OUT ON PAPA ROACH. SEE WHAT THEY DID THERE?

WHICH ALBUM CONNECTS YOU WITH SCOTT WEILAND, CHRIS CORNELL AND CHESTER BENNINGTON?
"That was the Santana album, and it was a dream come true. He's just a pleasure to be around. I got to watch him lay down his guitar parts, and he's an amazing player. I love watching anybody that's a master at their craft, whether it's building hotrods, tattoo artists, or a crazy guitarist."
CORRECT. AND THE ALBUM WAS ENTITLED GUITAR HEAVEN

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

IF YOU COULD ONLY GO TO ONE VACATION SPOT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHERE WOULD BE YOUR LAST RESORT?
"I think I would go to Bora Bora in French Polynesia. I've never been there myself, but I have friends who have gone there and they say it's just disconnected from the whole world. It's a paradise, and I could definitely use that for a few days. I think anybody could."

HOW WOULD YOU DEVISE THE ULTIMATE PLOT FOR GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER?
"I actually had a job that would allow me to get away with murder! I worked at a military base hospital, and I ran the incinerator they used to burn body parts from amputations or organ transplants. Any kind of tissue that was left over, I would burn. Talk about a way to get rid of the body with no evidence."

"EMINEM CLOBBERED ME WITH A CHAIR..."

IF YOU WOKE UP AS A GIANT INSECT, WHO WOULD BE THE FIRST PERSON YOU'D TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH?
"Metamorphosis, right? I see what you're doing. I'd probably go to my middle son Jagger, because he has the wildest imagination and I think he'd understand the message I was sending."
HE MIGHT TELL YOU TO STOP BUGGING HIM, THOUGH…

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?
"I definitely believe that there's some sort of paranormal activity out there. Have I seen a ghost for myself? I think I might have seen one when I was living at [LA mansion-cum-studio] the Paramour, but I might have been really high or drunk, too. That was a distinct possibility."
WE IMAGINE SPIRITS MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT…

JACOBY SCORED

88%

Wrestling with rappers, spending thousands on Champagne and doing stupid shit with Slipknot; Jacoby Shaddix might be a sober, slightly more sensible family man these days, but he still knows how to raise Hell. We're slightly scared about the incinerator, mind…

THE LEADERBOARD!

WHO TO BEAT IN 2015!

LEMMY, MOTÖRHEAD — 99%

ICE-T, BODY COUNT — 97%

ALICE COOPER — 95%

ALEX GASKARTH, ALL TIME LOW — 55%

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

KERRANG!

Slam Dunk 20 FESTIVAL 15

YOU ME AT SIX

TAKING BACK SUNDAY

LOWER THAN ATLANTIS

OVER 40 ARTISTS STILL TO BE ANNOUNCED ACROSS SEVEN STAGES!

REEL BIG FISH

MILLENCOLIN

GOLDFINGER

THE WONDER YEARS

NECK DEEP

BAYSIDE

FIREWORKS

KNUCKLE PUCK

GALLOWS

CROSSFAITH

H2O

COMEBACK KID

BANE

NORTH

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